

ASH vs THE ARMY OF DARKNESS



CHAD BOWERS • CHRIS SIMS • MAURO VARGAS

DYNAMITE®

ASH vs. THE ARMY OF DARKNESS



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This volume collects issues #0-5 of the Dynamite series Ash vs. the Army of Darkness.

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The Book of the Dead. An ancient Sumerian text bound in human flesh
and inked in blood, never meant for the world of the living.

My name's Ash Williams. I'm the lucky duck who found it. I'm the guy whose
life it ruined. It dragged me back to the Dark Ages, and by the time
I fought my way home, it cost me my girl, my hand, and my job.

And now it's returned. Badder, and meaner than ever before. Something that
powerful, that evil... I know what you're asking yourself. "How do you stop it?"

Here's your answer, baby: **ME**



Issue #0
Art by Nick Bradshaw
Colors by Pete Pantazis



"IT ALL STARTED WITH
THAT DAMN BOOK.

"THE *NECRONOMICON
EX MORTIS*, THE BOOK
OF THE DEAD.

"BOUND IN HUMAN FLESH AND INKED IN
BLOOD, IT CONTAINED BIZARRE BURIAL
RITES, FUNERARY INCANTATIONS, AND
DEMON RESURRECTION PASSAGES
THAT WERE NEVER MEANT FOR THE
WORLD OF THE LIVING.

"MY GIRLFRIEND
LINDA AND I FOUND
IT WHEN WE WENT ON
A TRIP TO A CABIN IN
THE MOUNTAINS.

"AN *ARCHAEOLOGIST*
HAD BROUGHT IT HERE TO
TRANSLATE IT, BUT HE GOT
A LOT MORE THAN HE
BARGAINED FOR.

"IT AWOKE
SOMETHING IN THE
WOODS. SOMETHING
EVIL.

"IT TOOK
LINDA.

"AND THEN IT
CAME FOR ME.

"IT GOT INTO MY HAND,
AND IT WENT BAD.

"SO I LOPPED IT
OFF AT THE WRIST.

"AND THEN
THINGS GOT
WORSE.

"IT DROPPED ME IN THE 14TH CENTURY, SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF PRIMITIVES WHO WANTED TO WATCH ME GET MY SOUL RIPPED OUT.

"BUT THEN THEY REALIZED THAT I WAS THEIR BEST HOPE AGAINST THE *DEADITES*. STARTED CALLING ME THE *PROMISED ONE*."

"OF COURSE, THAT JUST MEANS THAT I HAD TO DO **EVERY DAMN THING** MYSELF. AND THE BOOK WAS FIGHTING ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

"IT MADE AN *EVIL*
VERSION OF ME, A
DEAD, TWISTED
REFLECTION.

"I BLEW HIS FACE OFF
WITH A SHOTGUN, BUT
HE JUST CAME BACK
STRONGER.

"HE TOOK THE ONLY THING I CARED ABOUT IN THAT ASS-BACKWARDS TIME AND RAISED AN *ARMY OF DARKNESS* TO DESTROY US ALL.

"BUT I STOPPED HIM.

"I STOPPED HIM, AND I SAID THE DAMN WORDS SO THAT I COULD GET BACK TO MY OWN TIME.

"BUT SOMEHOW, THEY FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE.

THE DEADITES,
SOUL-EATING
MONSTERS RAISED
UP FROM CORPSES.

"ONE OF THEM
ATTACKED *S-MART*,
AND I DID WHAT I DO
BEST. I TOOK THAT--"

"I'M
SORRY..."





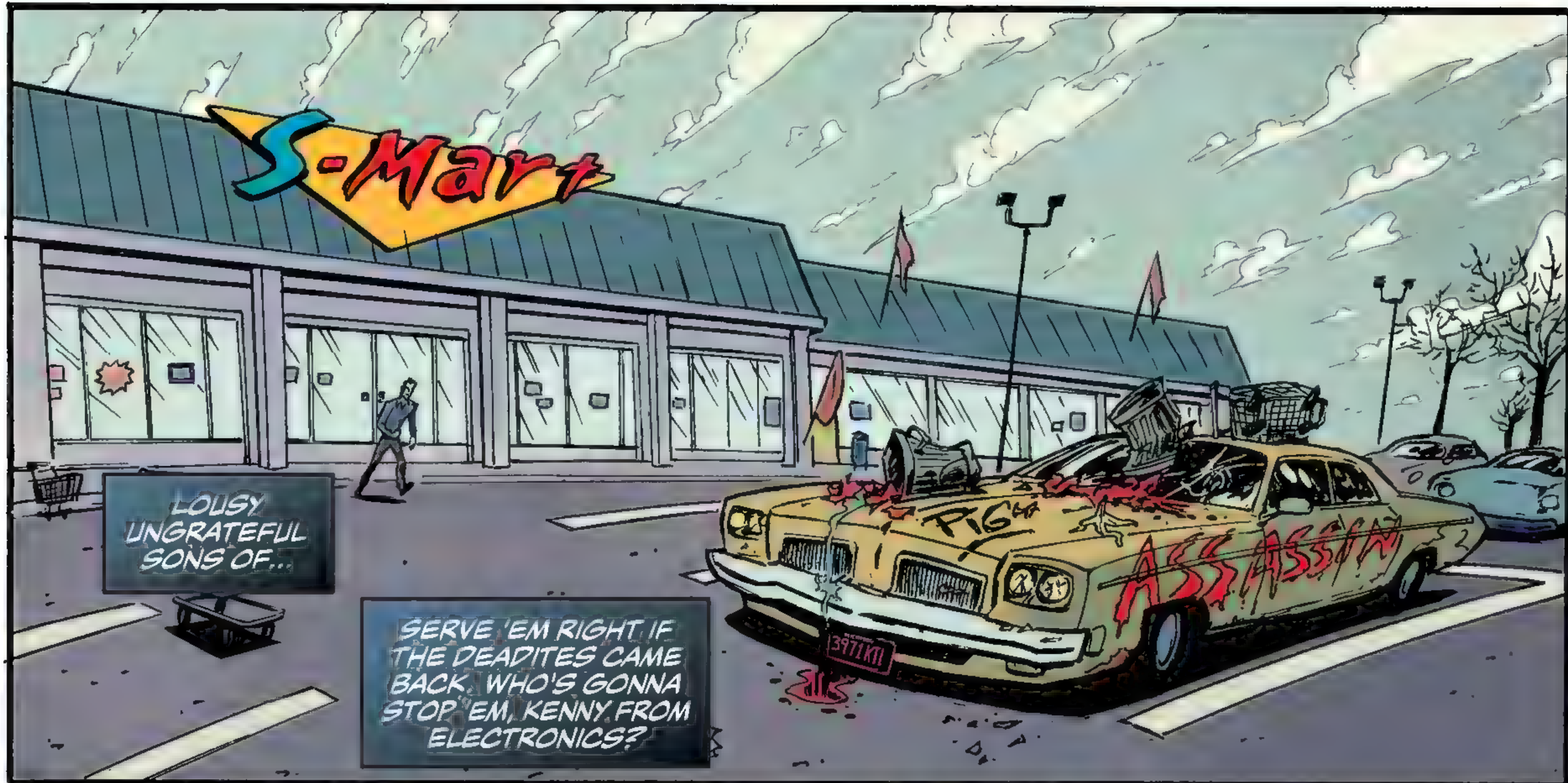


THANKS
SMART

Thank You For Shopping at S-MART

S-Mart

S-Mart
HIMYNAME IS
ASH
HOUSEWARES

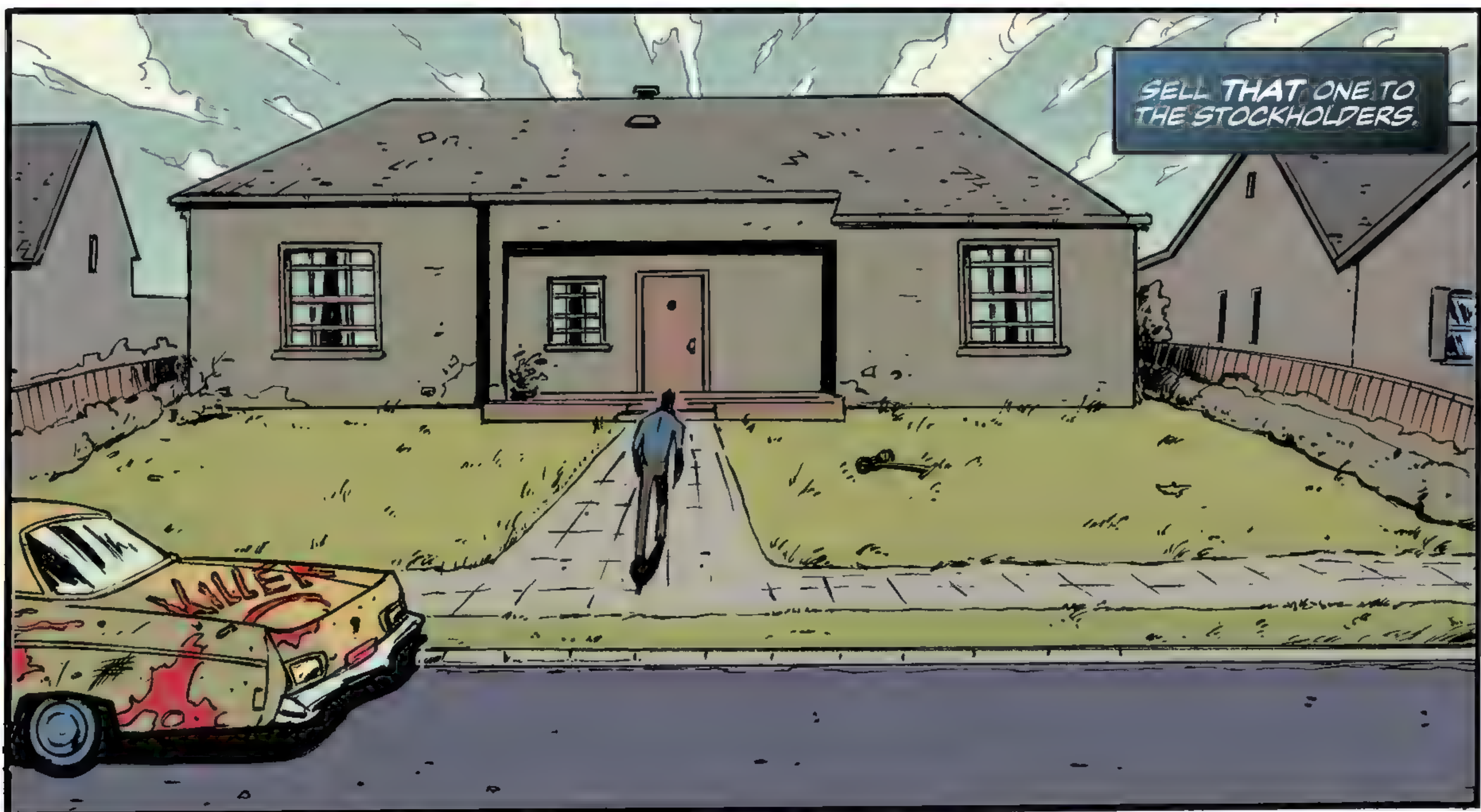
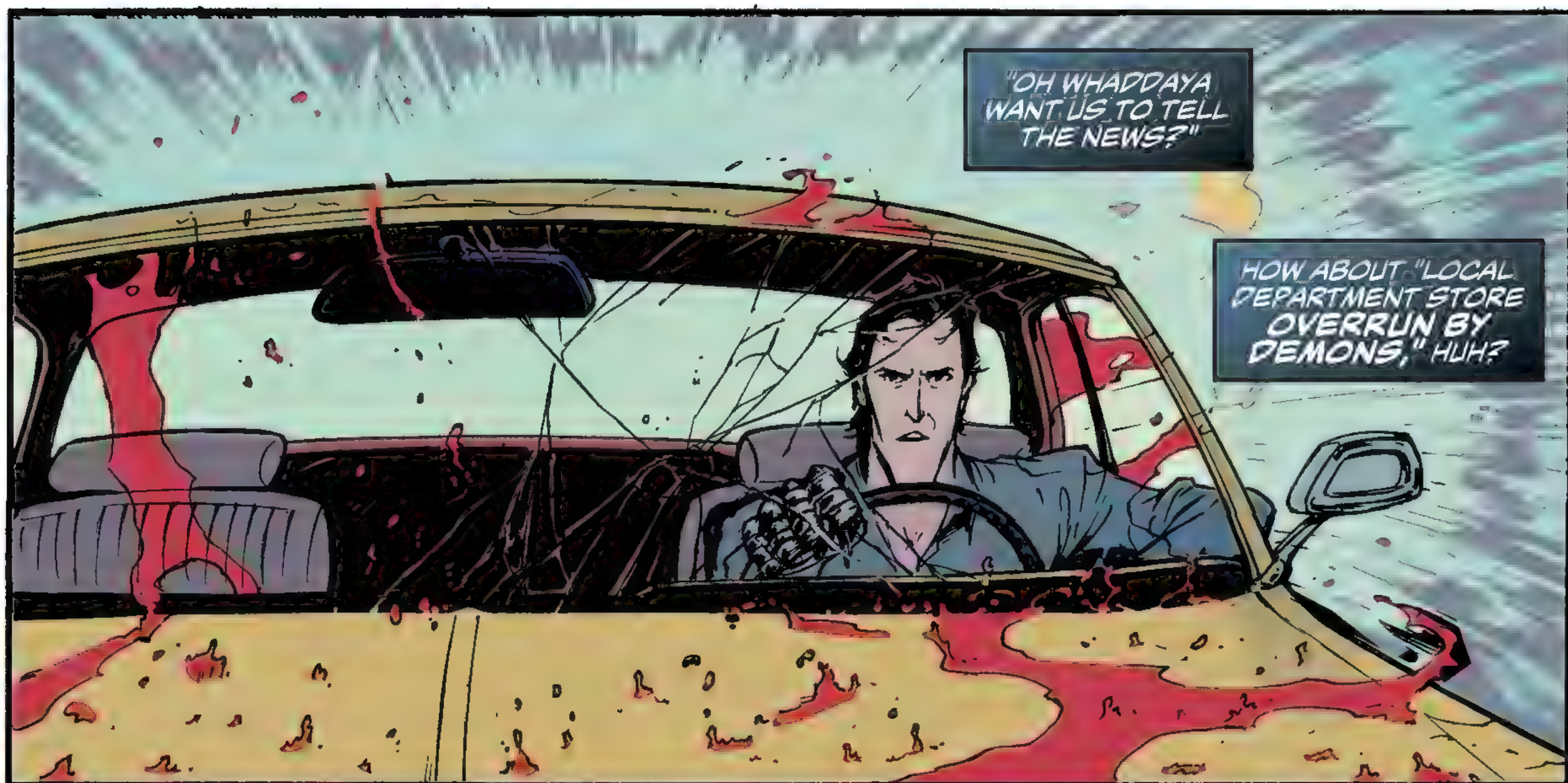


LOUSY
UNGRATEFUL
SONS OF...

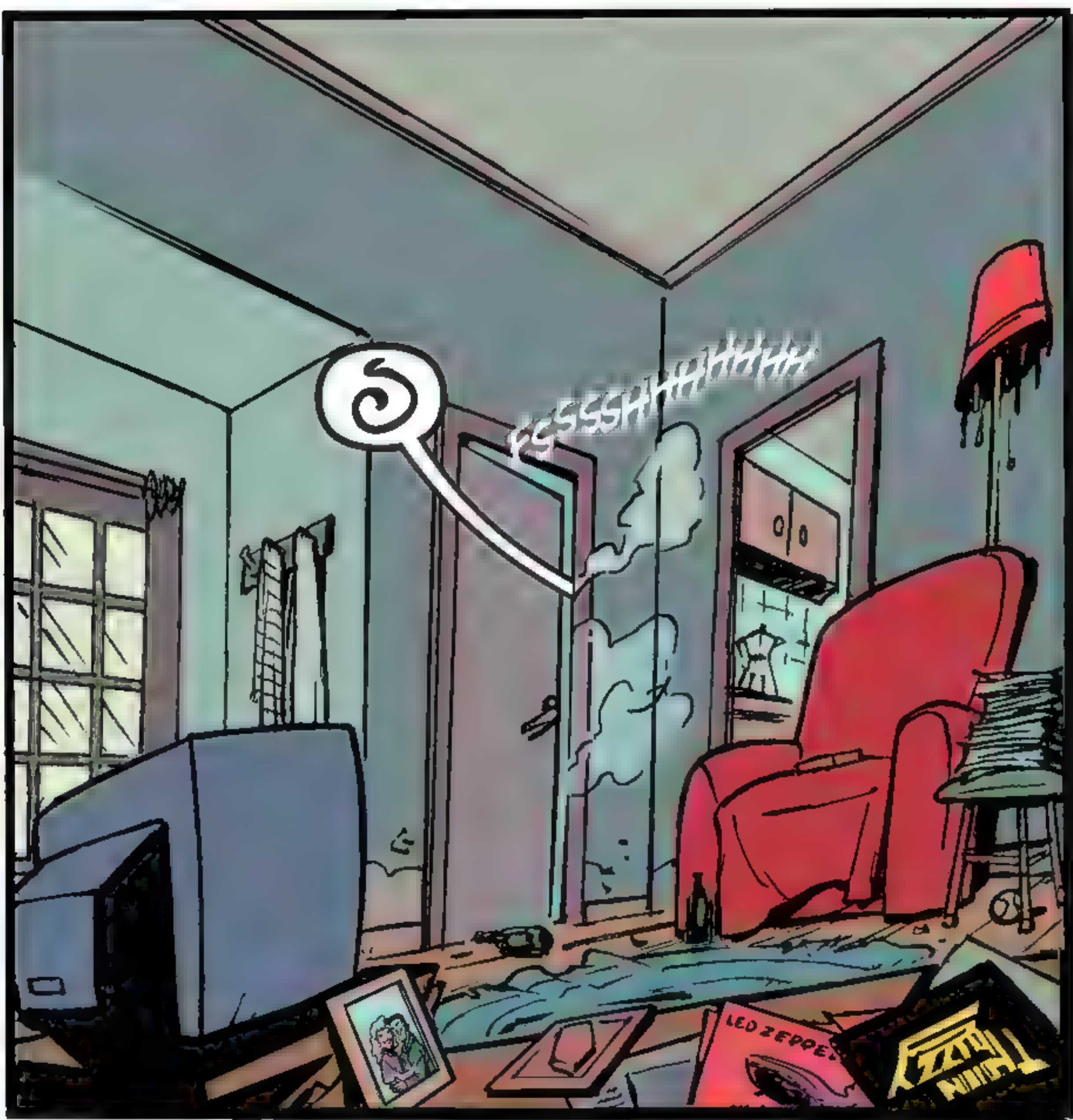
SERVE 'EM RIGHT IF
THE DEADITES CAME
BACK. WHO'S GONNA
STOP 'EM, KENNY FROM
ELECTRONICS?

"OH WHADDAYA
WANT US TO TELL
THE NEWS?"

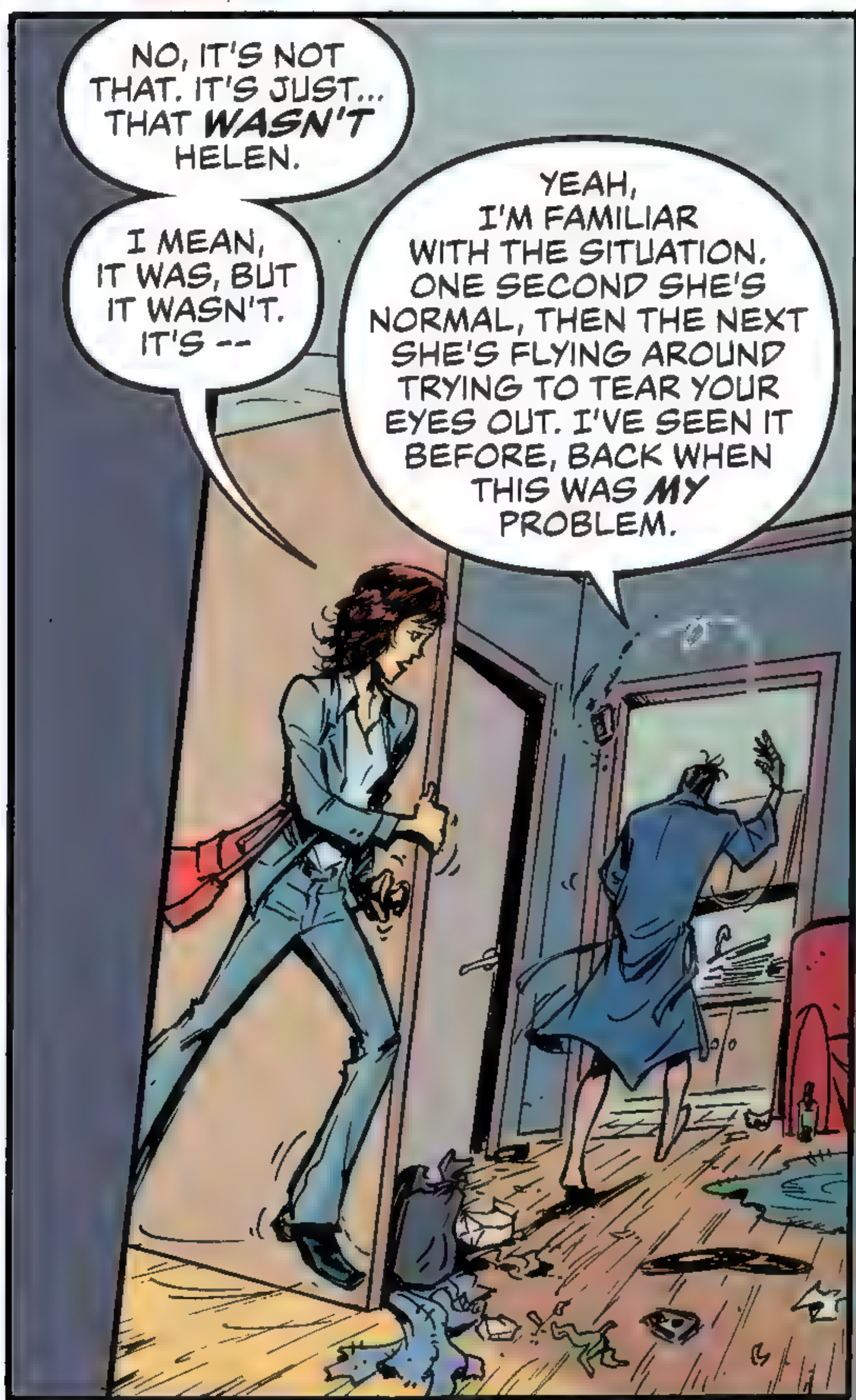
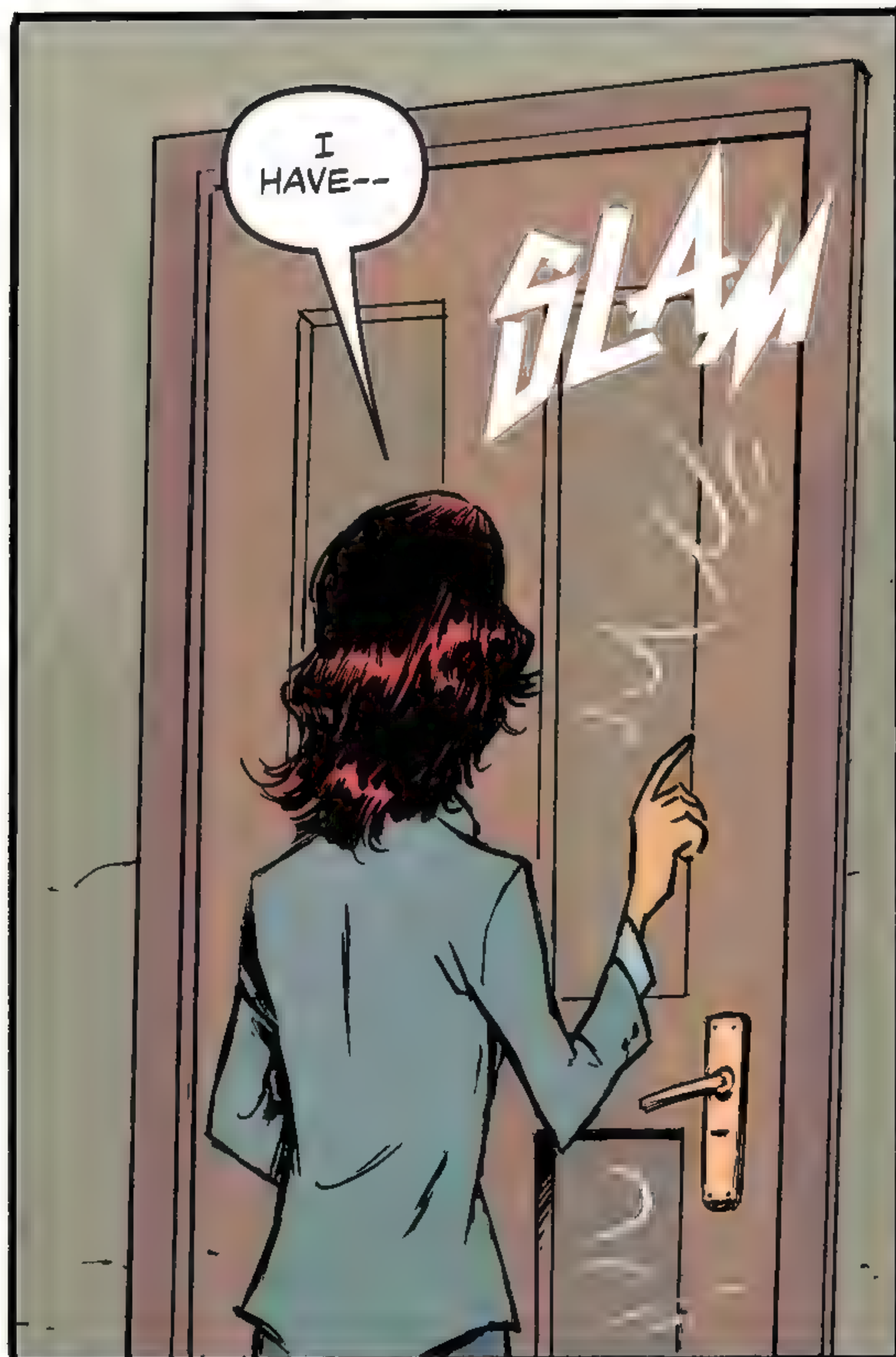
HOW ABOUT "LOCAL
DEPARTMENT STORE
OVERRUN BY
DEMONS," HUH?



SELL THAT ONE TO
THE STOCKHOLDERS.









WEEKS?

YEAH...



I'M
THE **VICE
PRINCIPAL** OVER
AT ALAN SHEPARD HIGH.
HELEN IS---**WAS**---OUR
LIBRARIAN. THE SWEETEST,
MOST SOFT-SPOKEN
PERSON I'VE EVER
MET.

UNTIL
A MONTH
AGO.



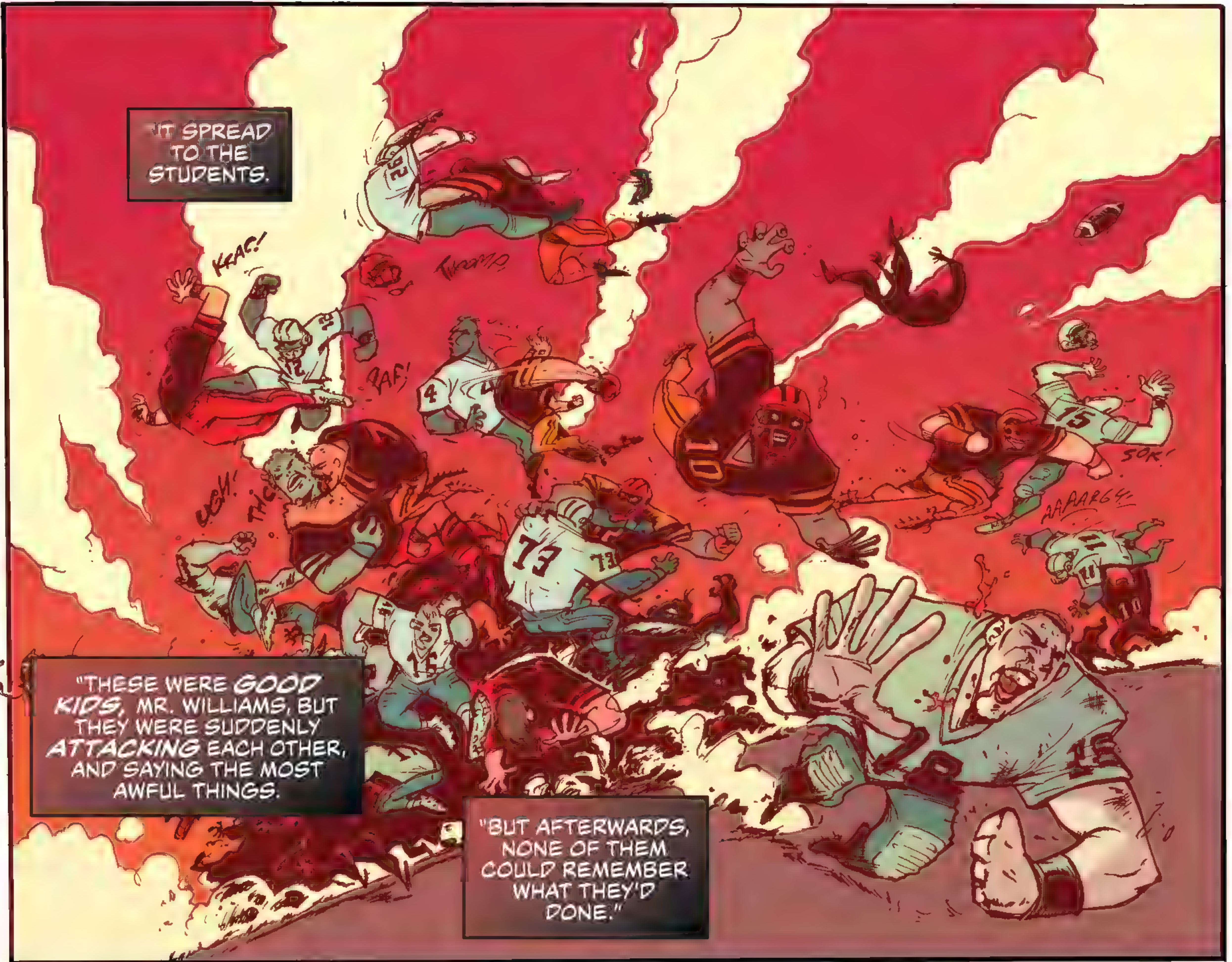
SHE STARTED
GETTING **ANGRIER**.
SNAPPING AT PEOPLE
FOR NO REASON,
YELLING AT THE KIDS.

AT FIRST SHE'D
APOLOGIZE FOR IT, BUT
IT JUST KEPT GETTING
WORSE. SHE WASN'T
SLEEPING, SHE
WOULDN'T EAT LUNCH.
THEN SHE STOPPED
COMING TO WORK.

AND IT WASN'T
JUST HER.



"OTHER TEACHERS
STARTED ACTING...
STRANGE.



"IT SPREAD
TO THE
STUDENTS.

"THESE WERE *GOOD*
KIDS, MR. WILLIAMS, BUT
THEY WERE SUDDENLY
ATTACKING EACH OTHER,
AND SAYING THE MOST
AWFUL THINGS.

"BUT AFTERWARDS,
NONE OF THEM
COULD REMEMBER
WHAT THEY'D
DONE."



SO YOU HAD SOME **BOOKWORM** WHO READ THE WRONG **BOOK**, AND **ONCE AGAIN**, I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO CLEAN UP THE MESS.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

BUT IT HASN'T **STOPPED**. HELEN STOPPED COMING TO WORK WEEKS AGO, AND ALL THIS...ALL THIS **STUFF** IS STILL HAPPENING!



AND LET ME GUESS.

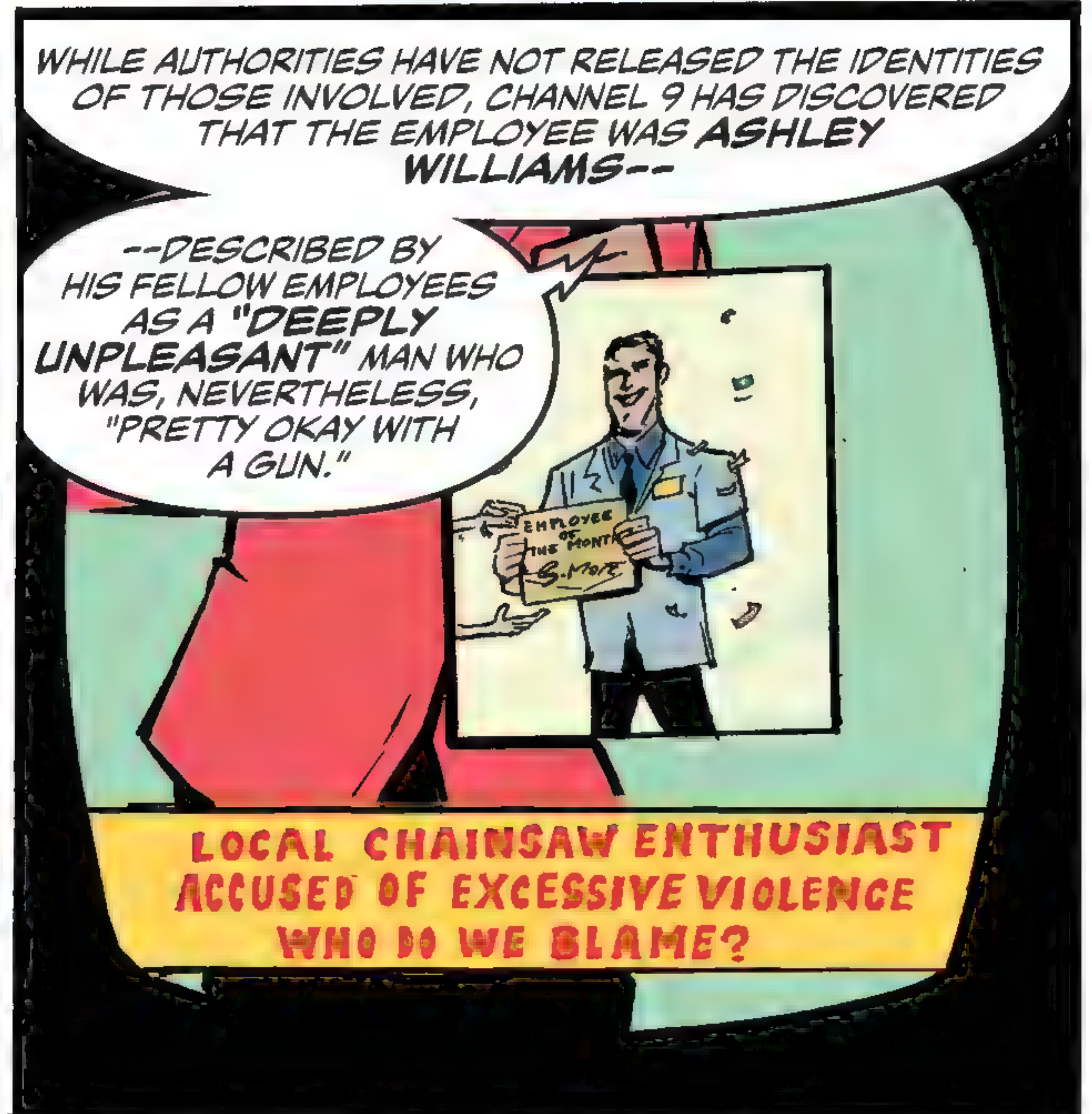
YOU HEARD ABOUT SOME **GREAT HERO** WHO CAN STAND AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL AND DECIDED TO GIVE ME A CALL.

UH...



--AT AN **S-MART** STORE, WHERE A LOCAL LIBRARIAN'S **DRUG-FUELED SHOPLIFTING MURDER RAMPAGE** WAS HALTED BY A **TRIGGER-HAPPY HOUSEWARES EMPLOYEE**--

--WHO SWAPPED **BLENDERS** FOR A "**BOOMSTICK**" AND UNLEASHED A HAIL OF HOT LEAD THAT HAS SOME PEOPLE QUESTIONING THE STORE'S POLICY OF STOCKING **FULLY-LOADED FIREARMS**.



WHILE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RELEASED THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE INVOLVED, CHANNEL 9 HAS DISCOVERED THAT THE EMPLOYEE WAS **ASHLEY WILLIAMS**--

--DESCRIBED BY HIS FELLOW EMPLOYEES AS A "**DEEPLY UNPLEASANT**" MAN WHO WAS, NEVERTHELESS, "**PRETTY OKAY WITH A GUN**."

LOCAL CHAINSAW ENTHUSIAST ACCUSED OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE WHO DO WE BLAME?



NOT EXACTLY.





ALL RIGHT YOU LITTLE
HORMONAL MANIACS,
LISTEN UP.

ALAN SHEPARD HIGH SCHOOL

THE NAME'S
MR. WILLIAMS.

AS

AND SCHOOLS
IN SESSION.



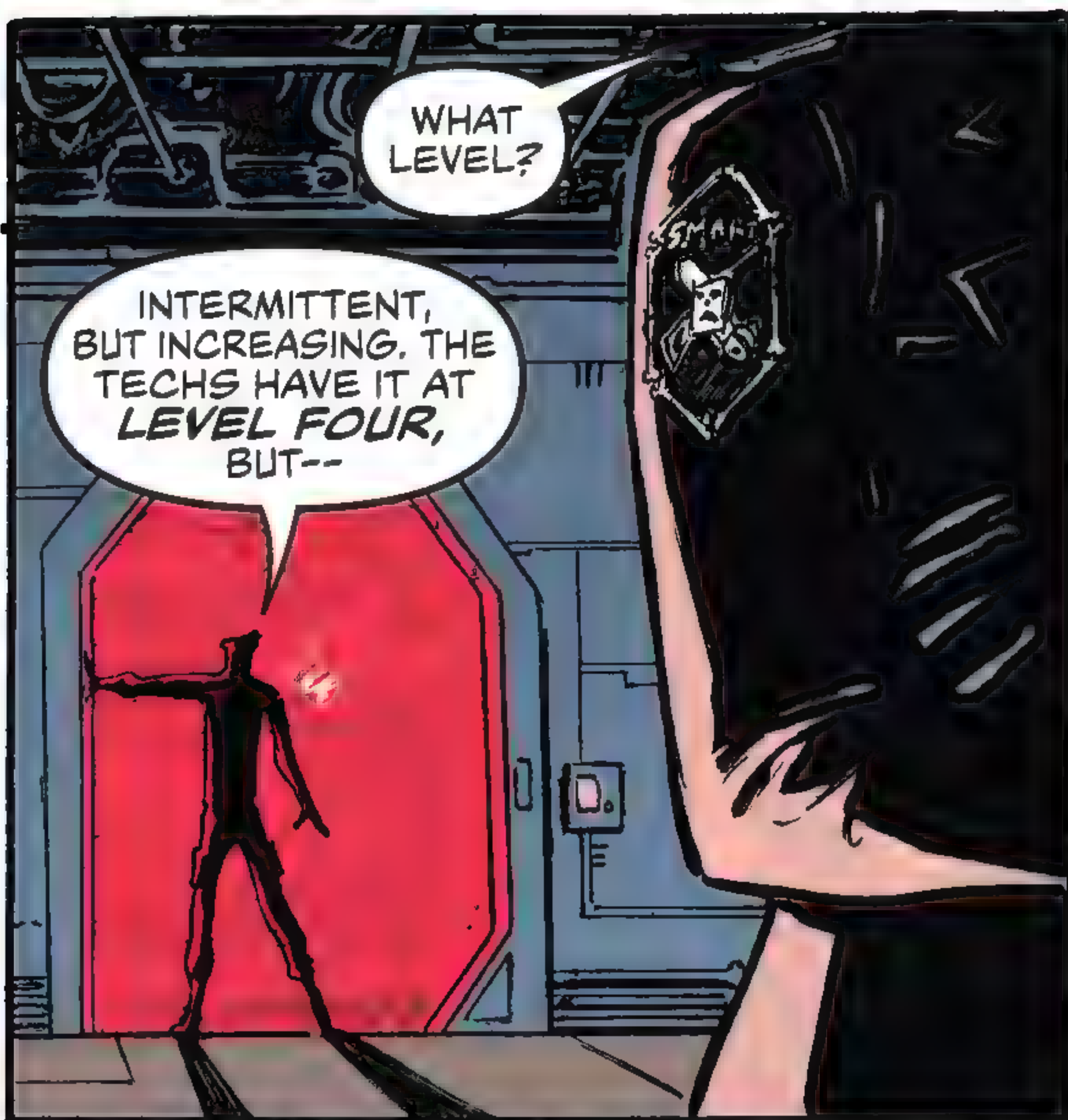
Issue #1
Art by Mauro Vargas
Colors by Triona Farrell







COMMANDER!
WE'VE GOT
CONFIRMED
ACTIVITY!



WHAT
LEVEL?

INTERMITTENT,
BUT INCREASING. THE
TECHS HAVE IT AT
LEVEL FOUR,
BUT--



PROTOCOL FOR LEVEL FOUR IS
OBSERVATION, CORPORAL, NOT
**SCREAMING DOWN THE
HALLWAY** THAT THE **END OF
THE WORLD** IS NIGH. WE
SAVE THAT FOR LEVEL
TWO.

I
KNOW,
BUT...

COMMANDER.
WE'VE GOT
POSSIBLE **T.P.O.**
INVOLVEMENT.



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



I CAN'T BE 100%,
IT'S JUST **SECURITY
FOOTAGE** FROM SOME
DEPARTMENT STORE AND
A COUPLE OF NEWS CLIPS,
BUT I'M SURE ENOUGH
TO RECOMMEND A
STRIKE TEAM.

LOCATION?

I KNOW
THIS IS GONNA
SOUND WEIRD,
BUT...

"...IT'S ALL BASED
AROUND SOME
HIGH SCHOOL
IN MICHIGAN."

ALL
RIGHT YOU
LITTLE HORMONAL
MANIACS, *LISTEN
UP.*

THE
NAME'S *MR.
WILLIAMS.*

AND
SCHOOL'S IN
SESSION.

MR WILLIAMS



PART ONE:

DETENTION!



FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, I'M GOING TO BE IN CHARGE OF **SHAPING YOUR TINY MINDS** WITH SOME FACTS ABOUT **WORLD HISTORY**.

UH, WHAT HAPPENED TO MRS. DAVIS?



WHAT AM I, HER MOTHER? IF SHE'S GOT ANY BRAINS, SHE'S AS FAR AWAY FROM THIS **HELLHOLE** AS POSSIBLE, JUST LIKE I WANNA BE.

WHAT'D SHE HAVE YOU STUDYING, ANYWAY?

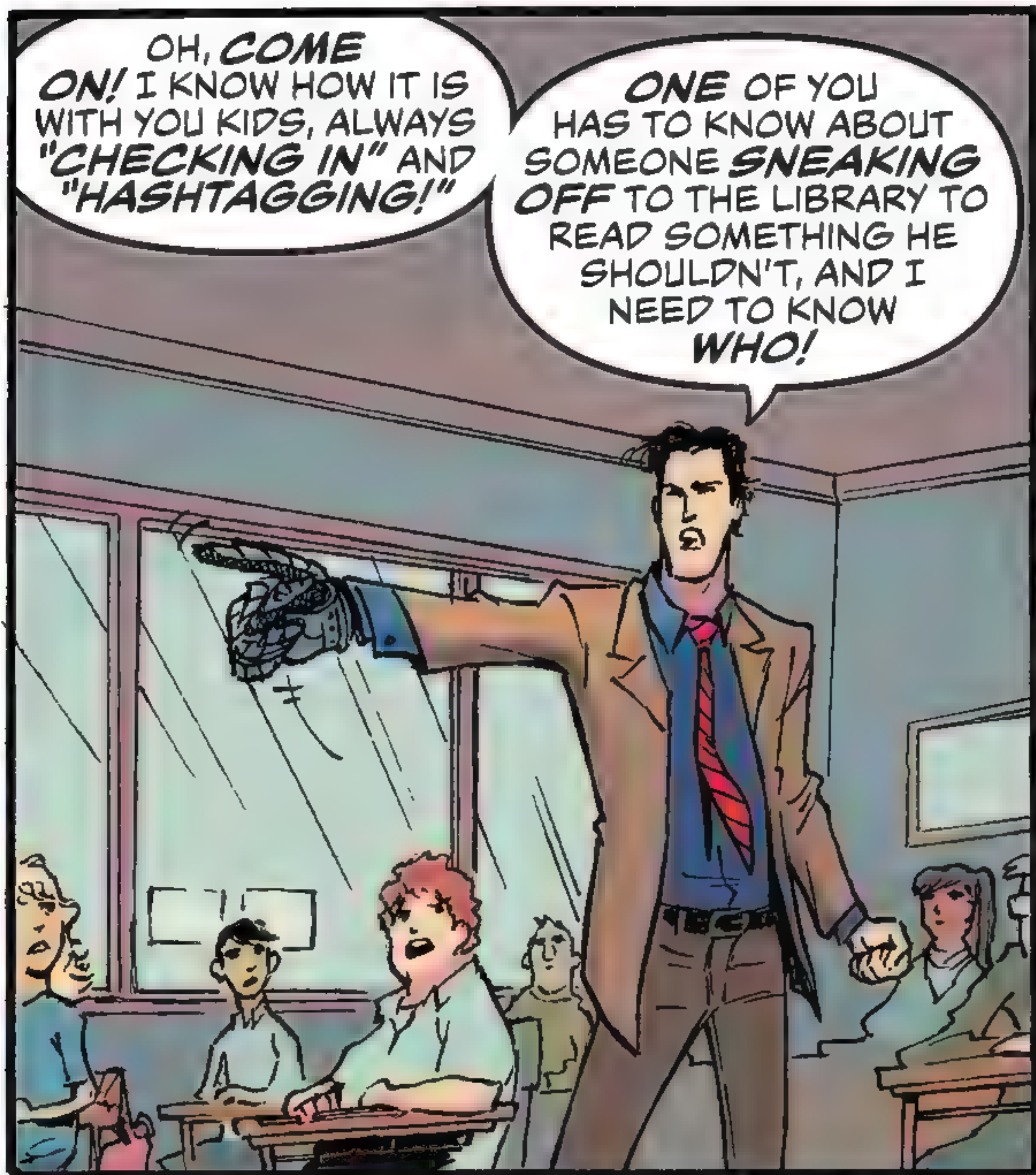


UH, WE WERE ABOUT TO START IN ON **14TH CENTURY EUROPE**.

GREAT, THAT'S EASY: IT SUCKED.



NOW HOW ABOUT A POP QUIZ?



SOON...

YOU WERE RIGHT. THE WHOLE **NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS** IS BREAKING DOWN AROUND HERE. THE **COOL KIDS** ARE **STUDYING**.

WHOLE THING GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST CAME RIGHT OUT AND **ASKED** THEM IF THEY WERE TRYING TO **RAISE THE DEAD**.

LISTEN, YOU WANT **SUBTLETY**, GET SOMEBODY ELSE. ME, I'VE ALWAYS FOUND THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS STUFF IS TO GO STRAIGHT AT IT, PREFERABLY WITH AN AXE.

WE MADE A **DEAL**, JOANNE.

I HELP YOU FIND OUT WHO'S CAUSING YOUR **DEADITE PROBLEM** BEFORE YOUR SCHOOL BECOMES **GROUND ZERO** FOR THE APOCALYPSE, AND YOU GET AUTO SHOP TO FIX UP MY **DELTA**.

YOU'RE GETTING A GOOD ENOUGH DEAL THAT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO TELL ME HOW TO DO THE ONE THING I DO BEST.

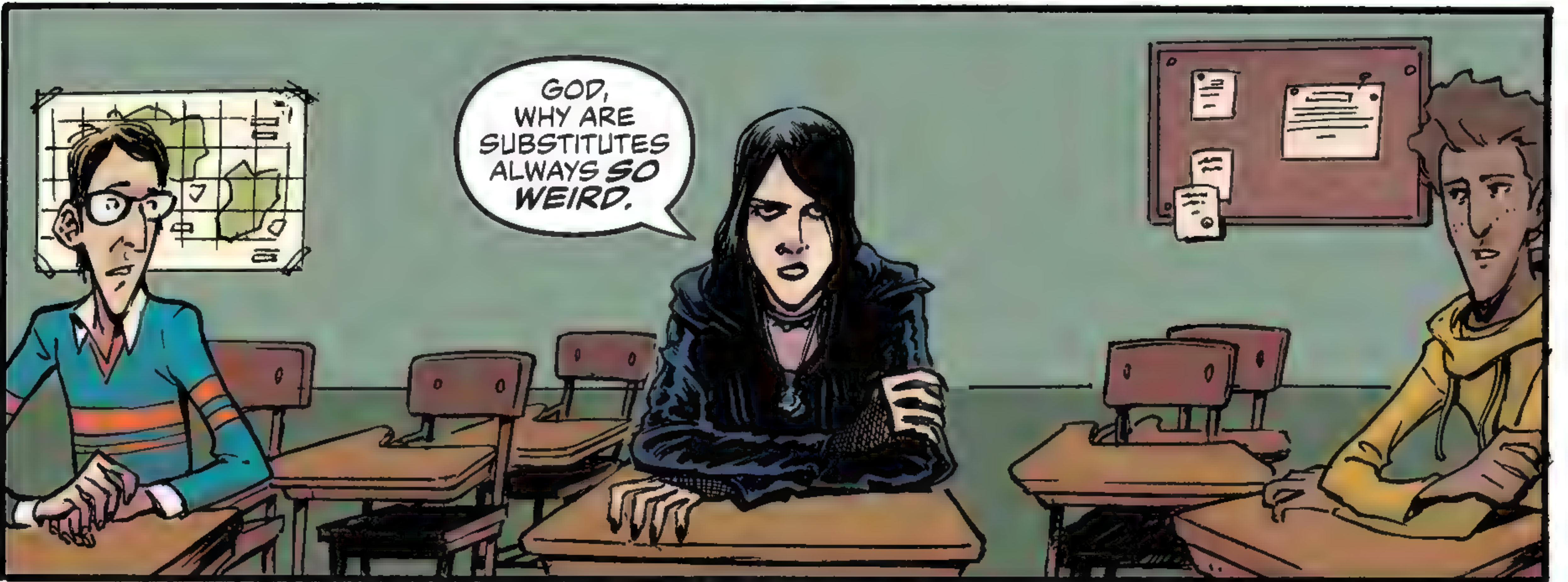
OKAY, OKAY---

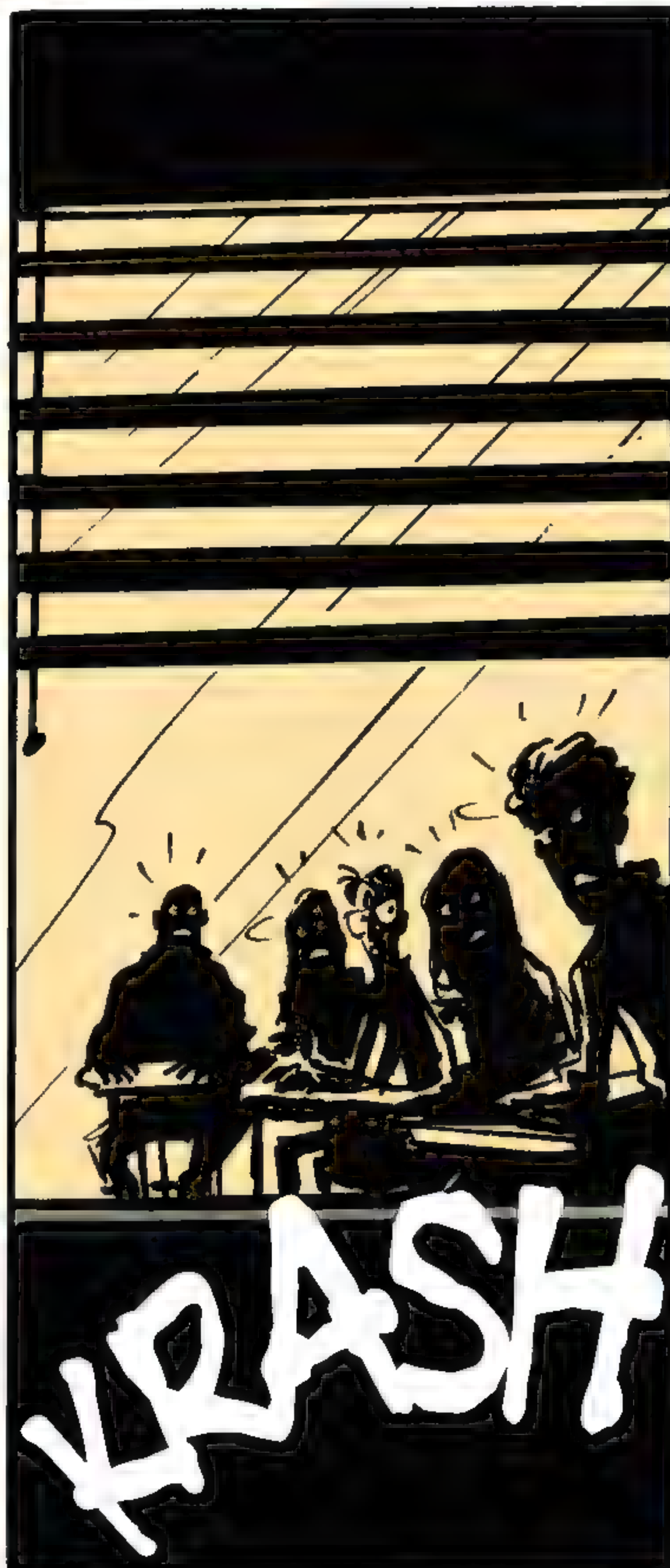
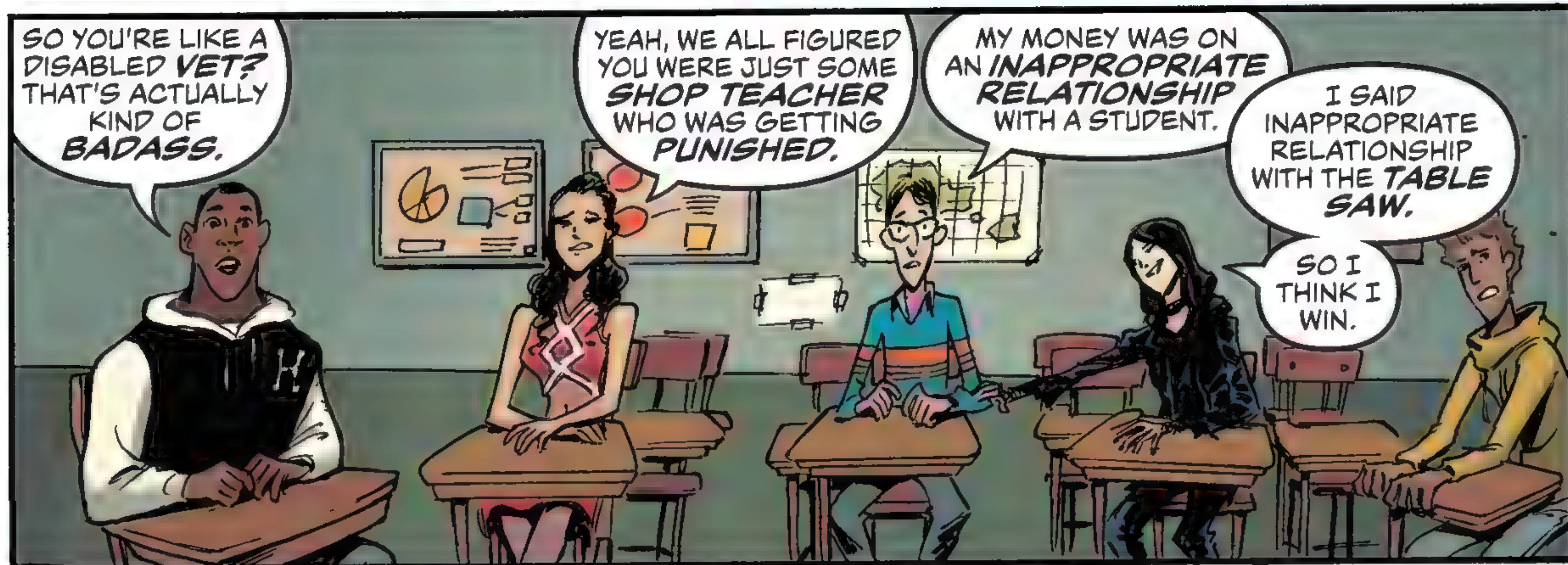
BUT UNTIL WE KNOW WHO WE CAN **TRUST**, I STILL THINK WE SHOULD KEEP THINGS QUIET.

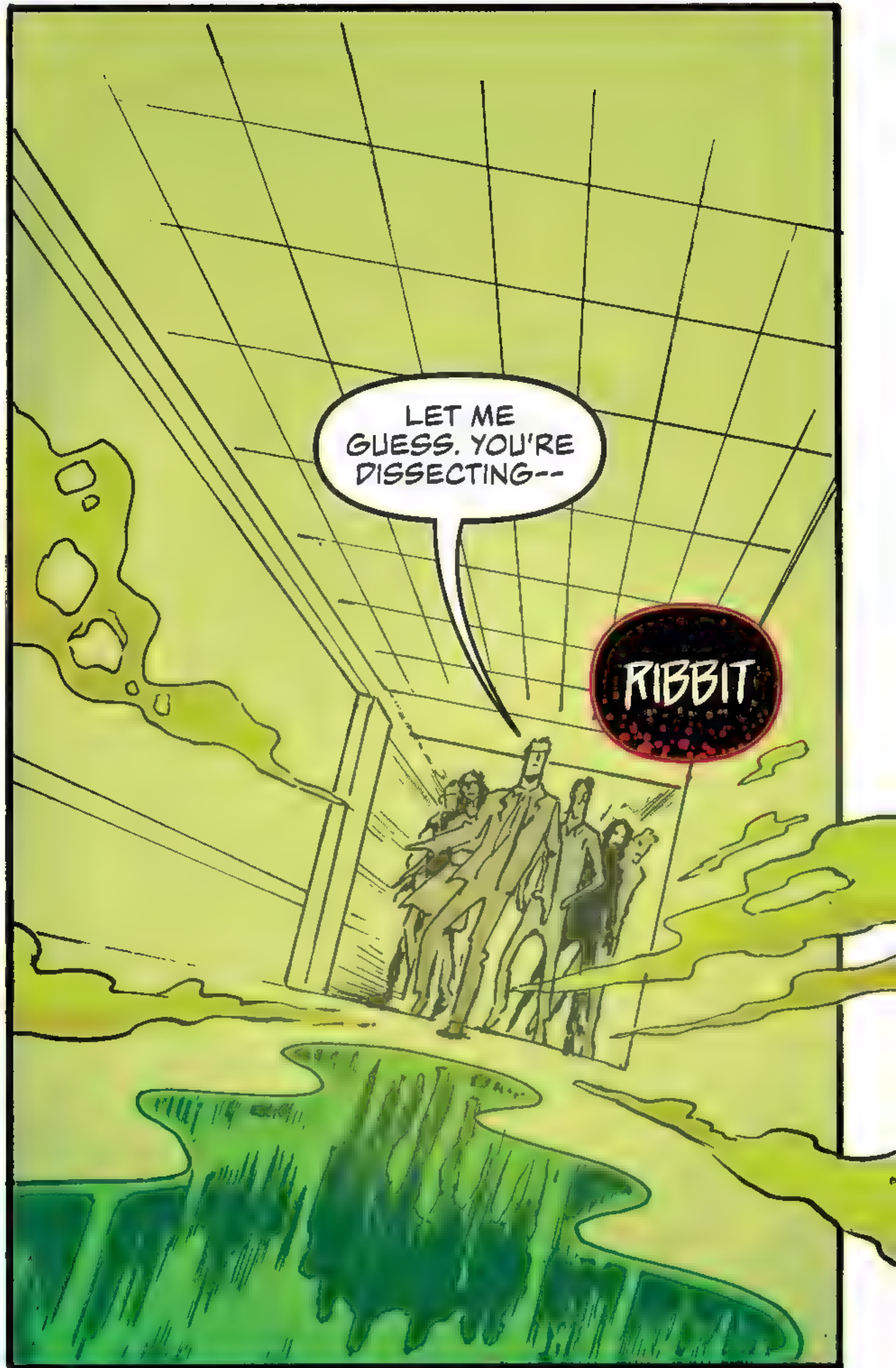
I HONESTLY CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE ON THE STAFF DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT SINCE HELEN WAS OUR **LIBRARIAN** BEFORE SHE...CHANGED, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT START HERE.

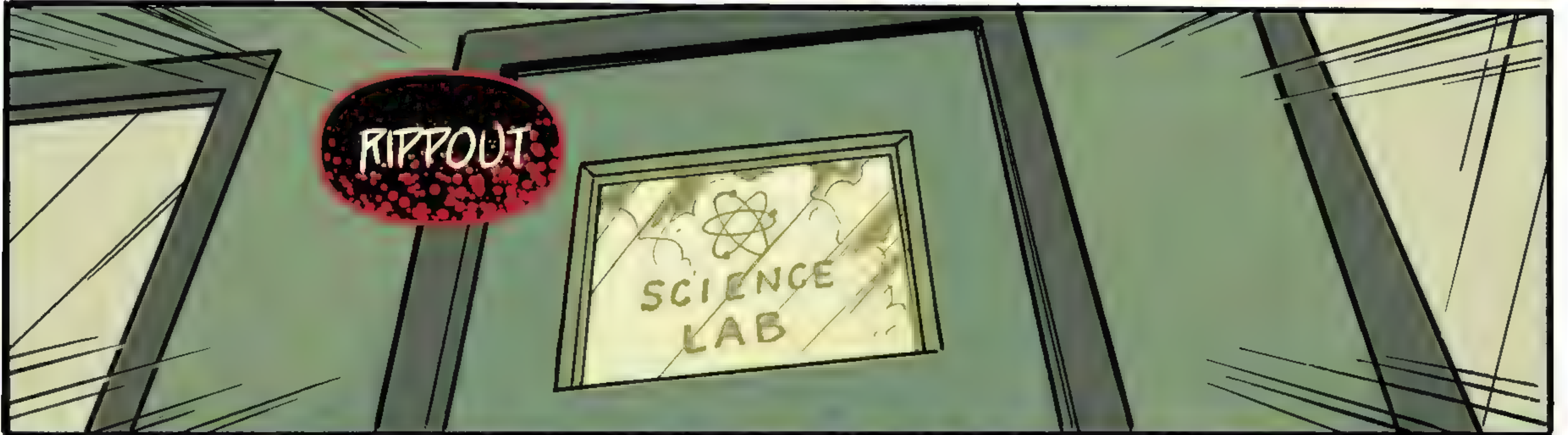


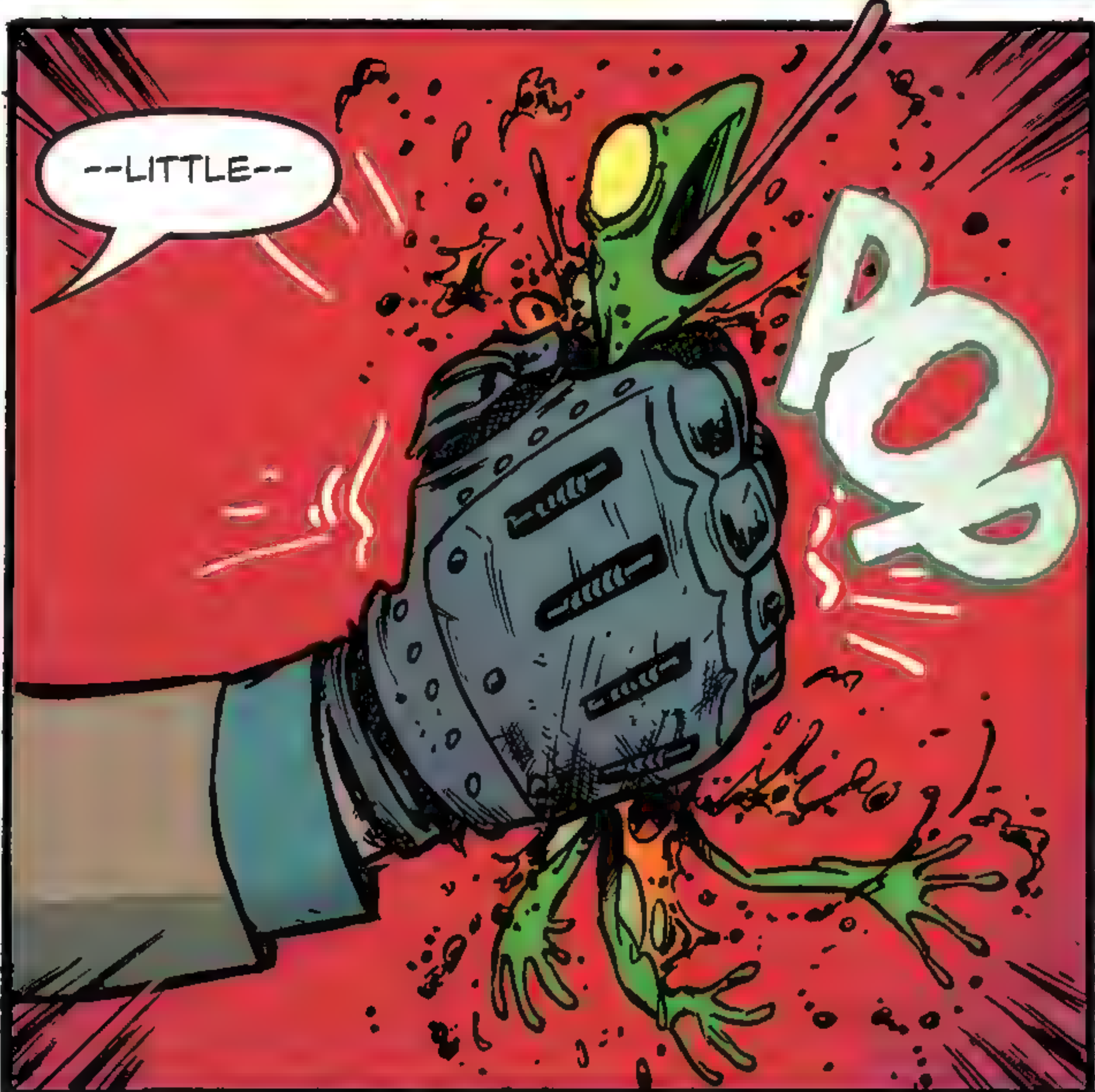


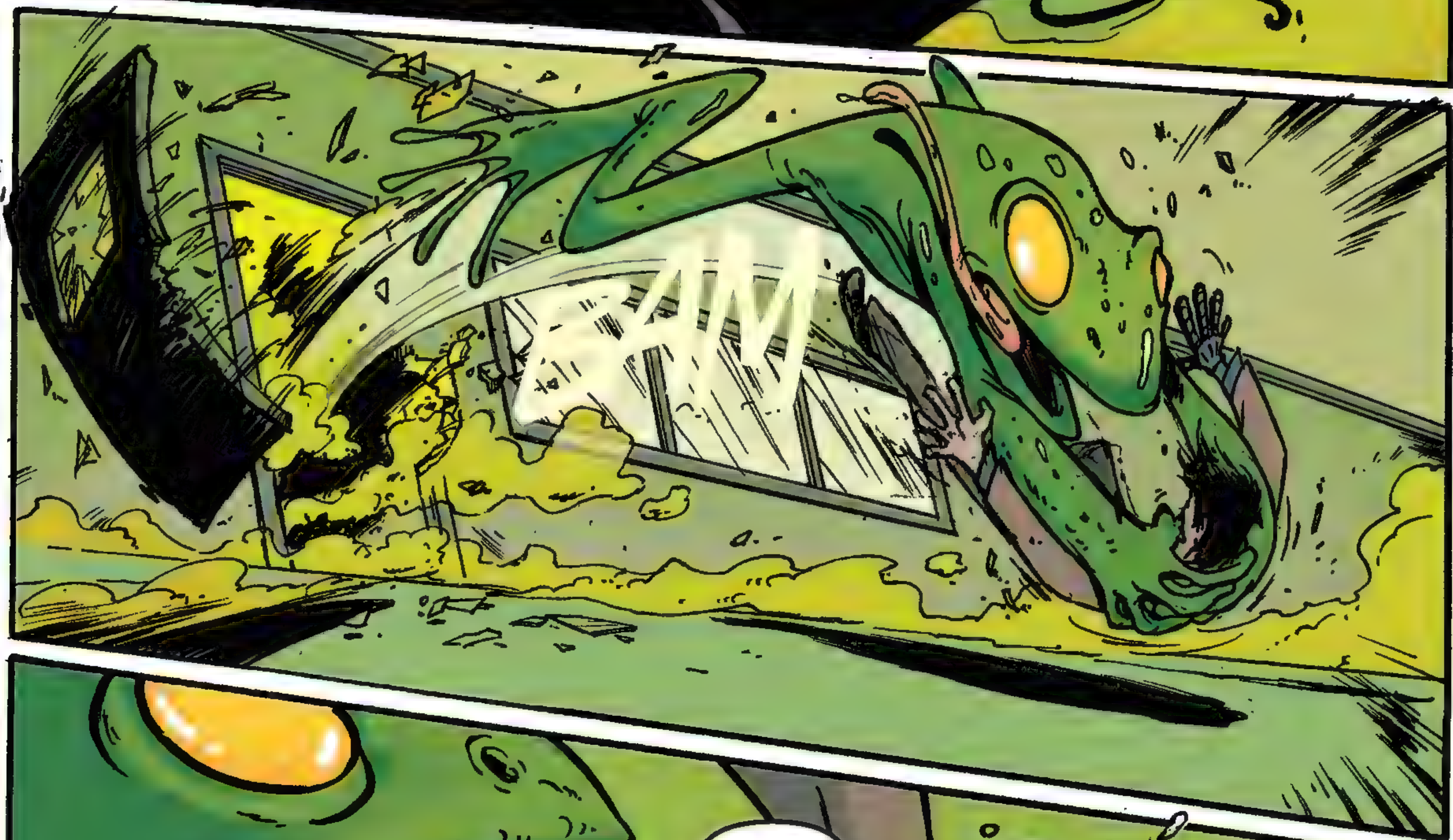


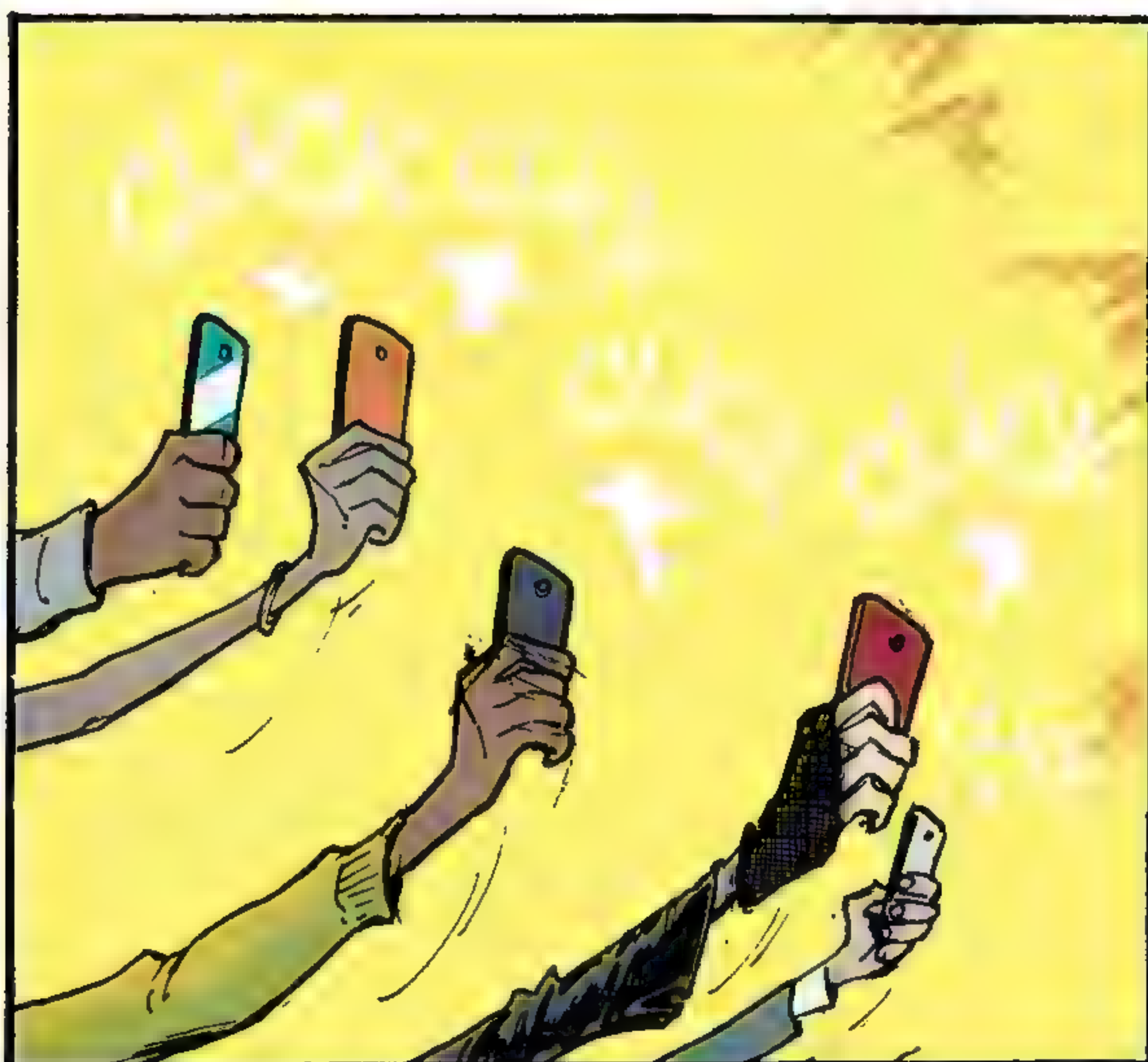






















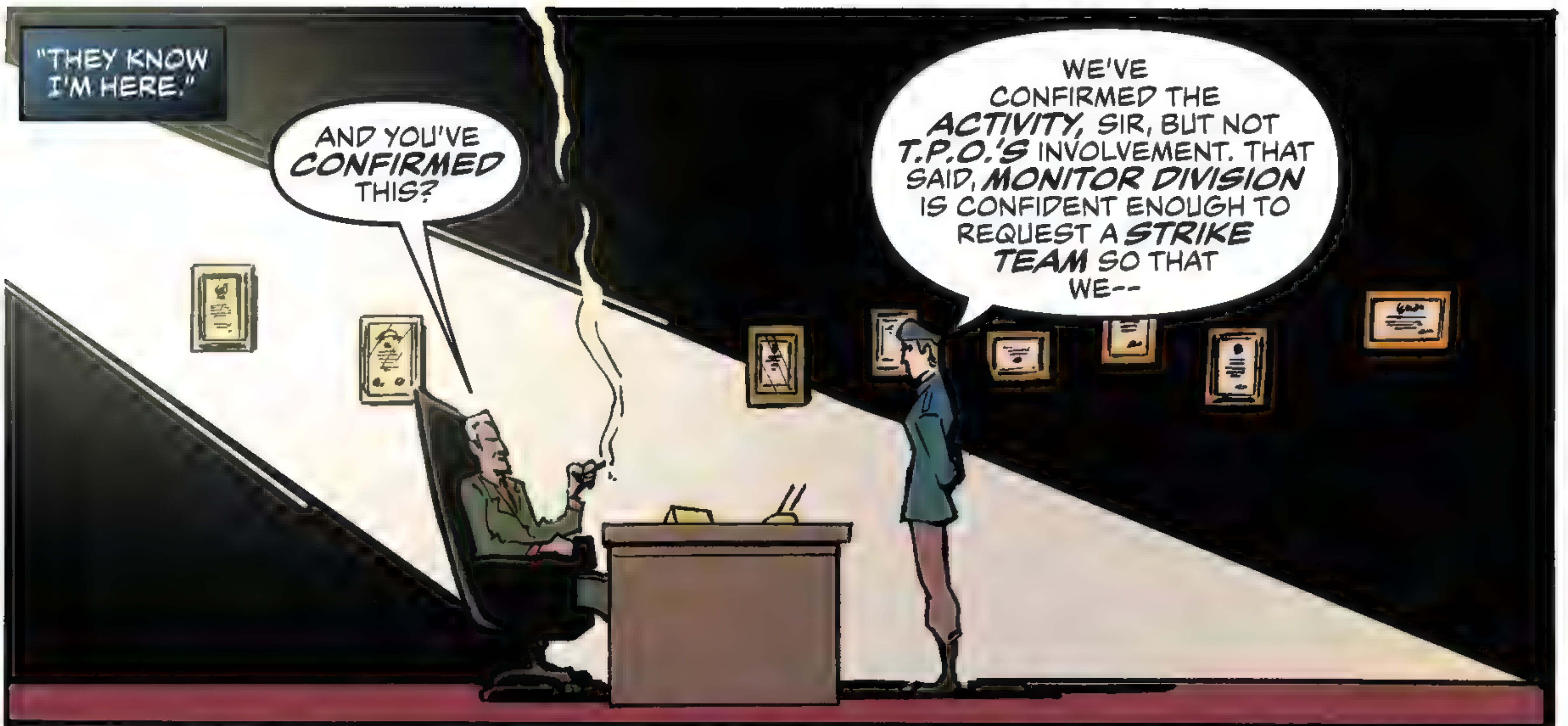
THEN
WE'RE BACK
WHERE WE STARTED.
NO LEADS. JUST A
BLUNCH OF OVERTIME
PAY FOR THE
CUSTODIAL
STAFF.

NO.

THIS
THING DIDN'T
SHOW UP IN THE
NEXT ROOM
BY ACCIDENT,
BABY.

THAT DAMN
BOOK--AND
WHOEVER'S GOT
A **HOLD OF**
IT--





Issue #2

Art by Mauro Vargas

Colors by Triona Farrell





ALAN SHEPHERD
HIGH SCHOOL

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

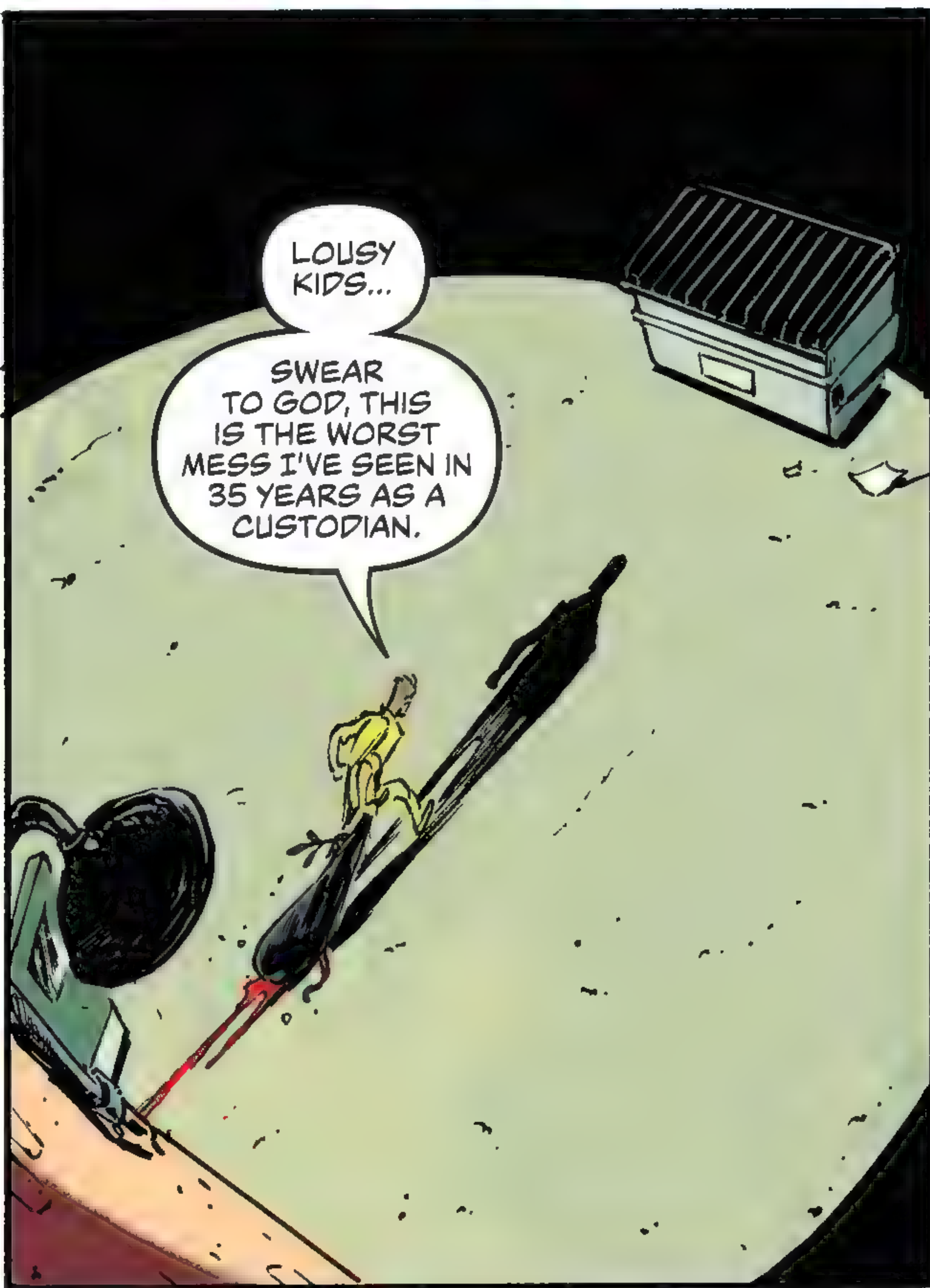
AW,
COME
ON!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!



LOUSY
KIDS...

SWEAR
TO GOD, THIS
IS THE WORST
MESS I'VE SEEN IN
35 YEARS AS A
CUSTODIAN.



IF I
WASN'T TWO
DAYS AWAY FROM
RETIREMENT,
I SWEAR I'D
QUIT.







--AND YOU CAN TRY TO EXPLAIN IT AWAY ALL YOU WANT, BUT WE KNOW WHAT WE **SAW**, MS. WENTWORTH!

WELL, **TECHNICALLY**, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE SAW. AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM. WHAT WAS THAT **FROG THING**?

I RECOGNIZE YOU'RE SHAKEN UP--AND WITH GOOD REASON.



BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A PRANK GONE WRONG.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT TOMORROW, BUT FOR NOW...

WILL YOU ALL **PLEASE** JUST GO HOME?



DO YOU **REALLY** WANT US TO GO HOME AND TELL OUR PARENTS THAT WE WERE ATTACKED BY A **MONSTER** THAT TRIED TO EAT **SANDRA**?

FOR THE LAST TIME, MITCH...

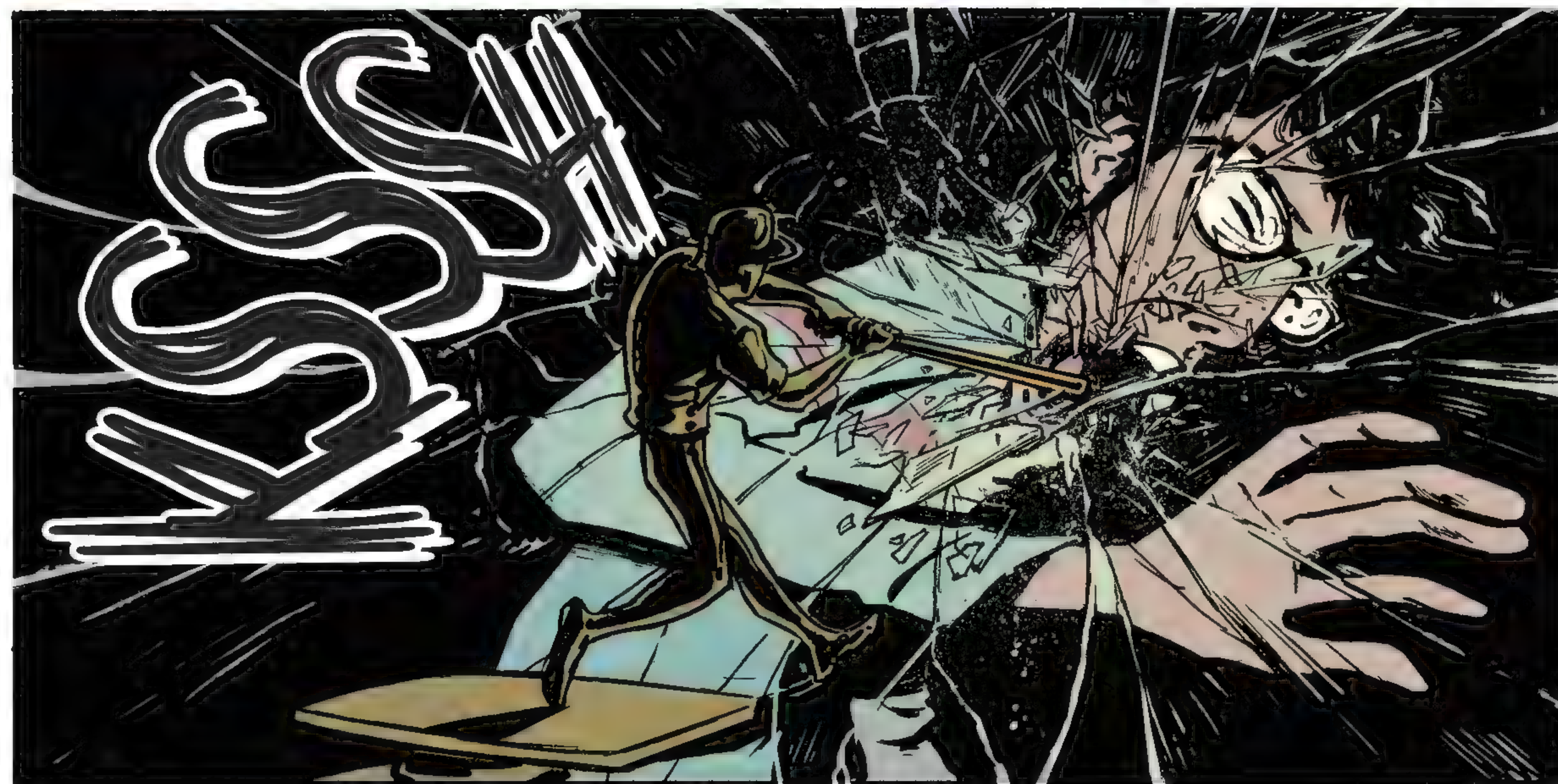
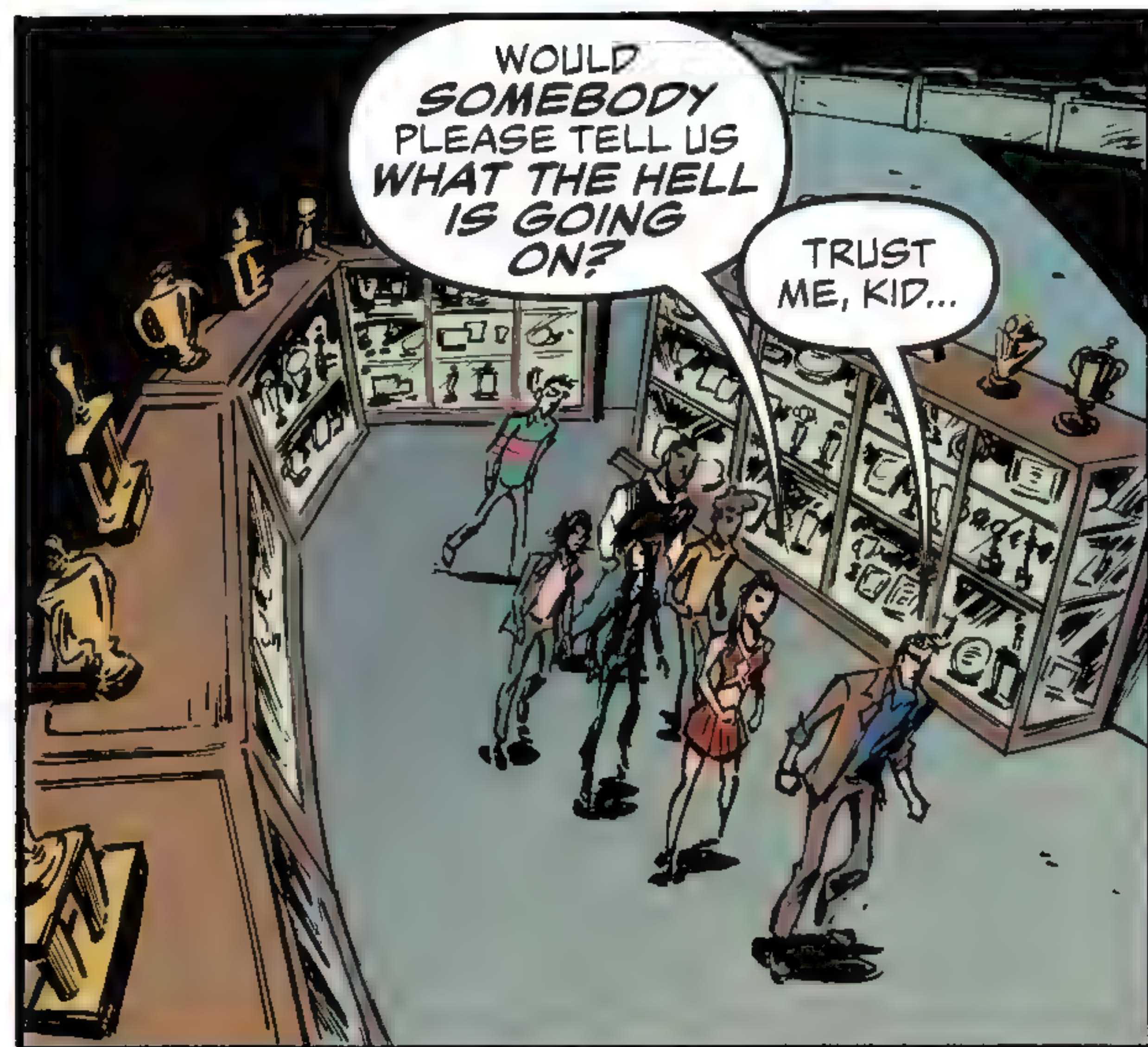
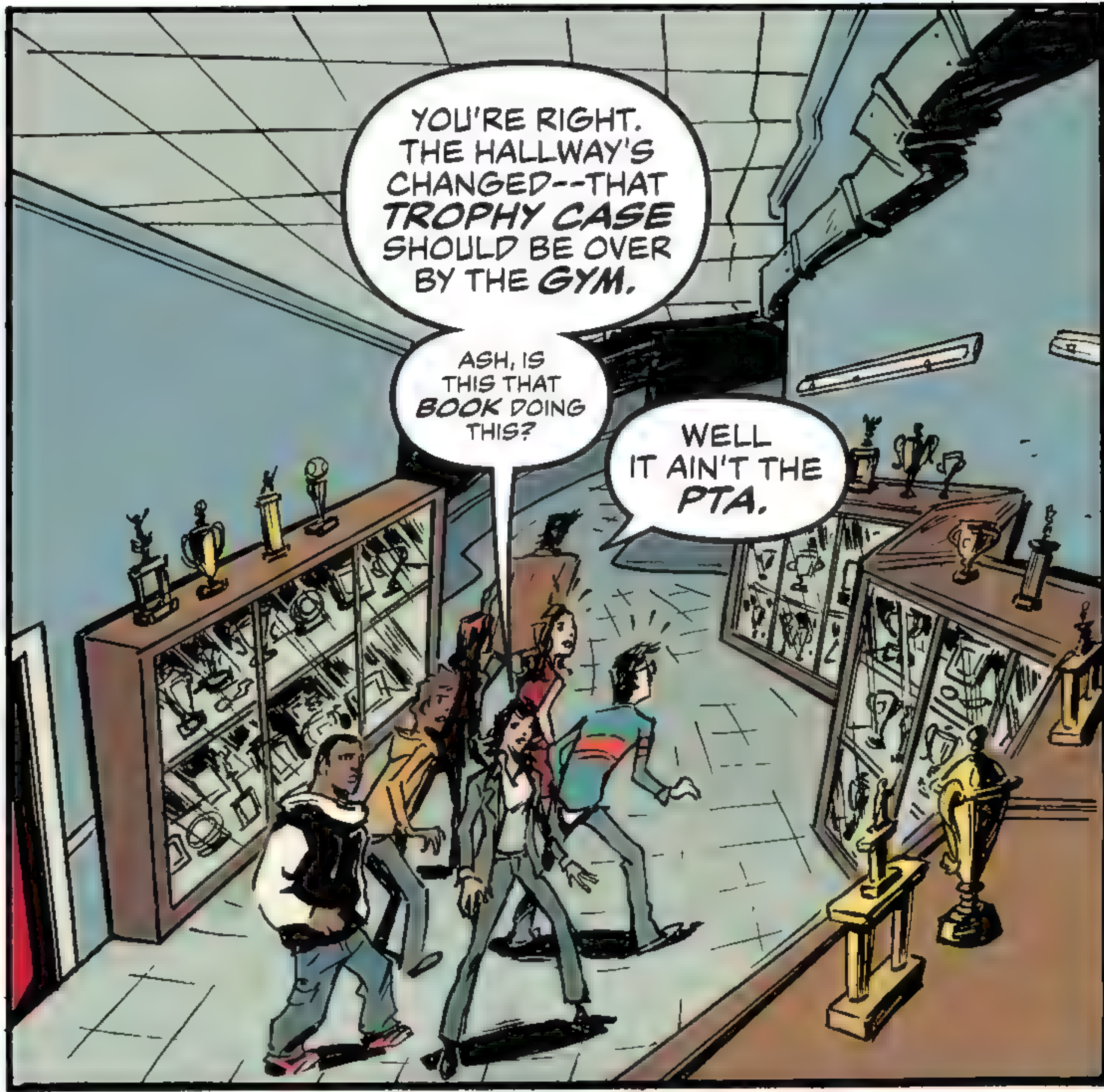
HUH?



THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY--

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE OR WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

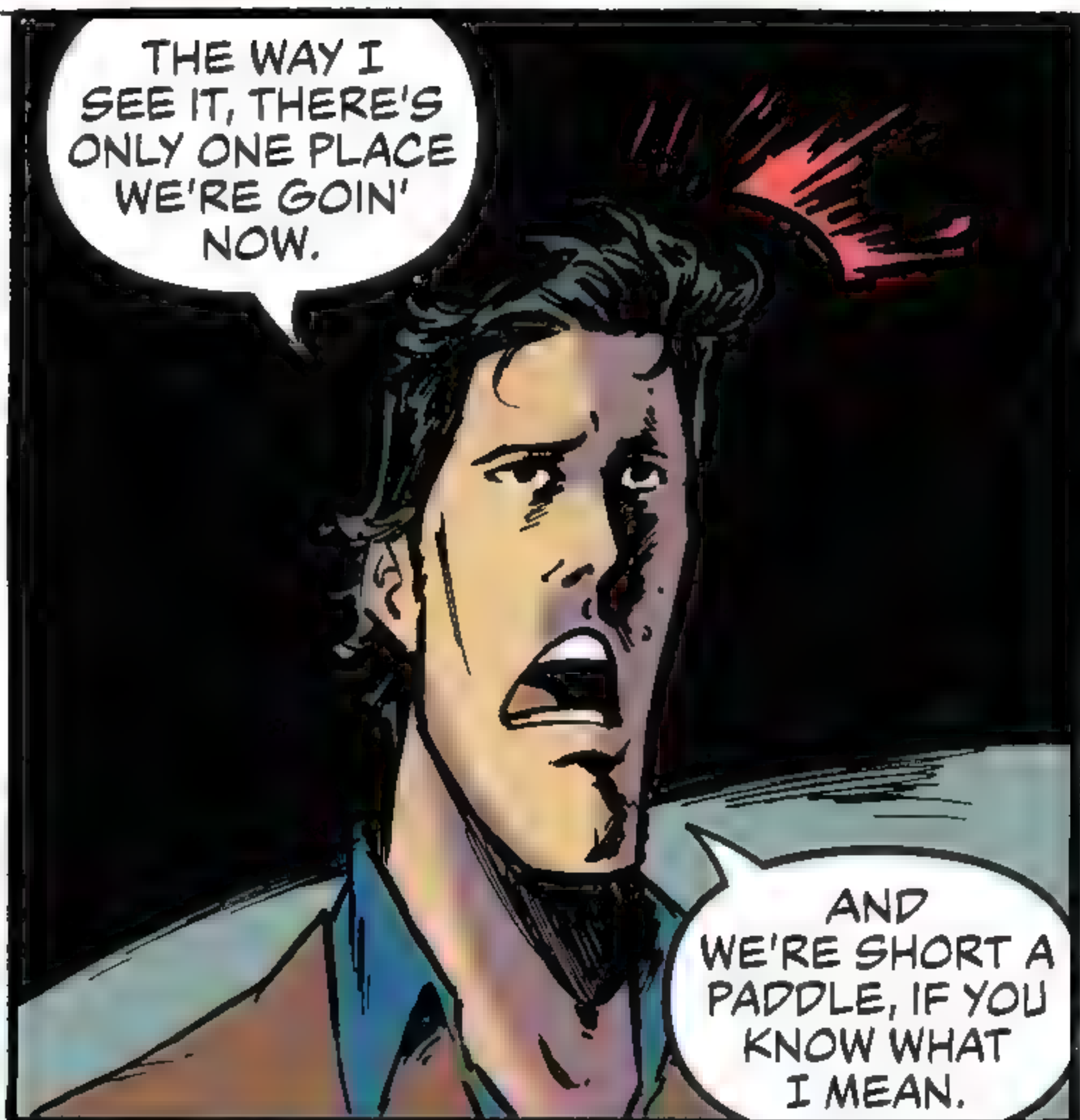








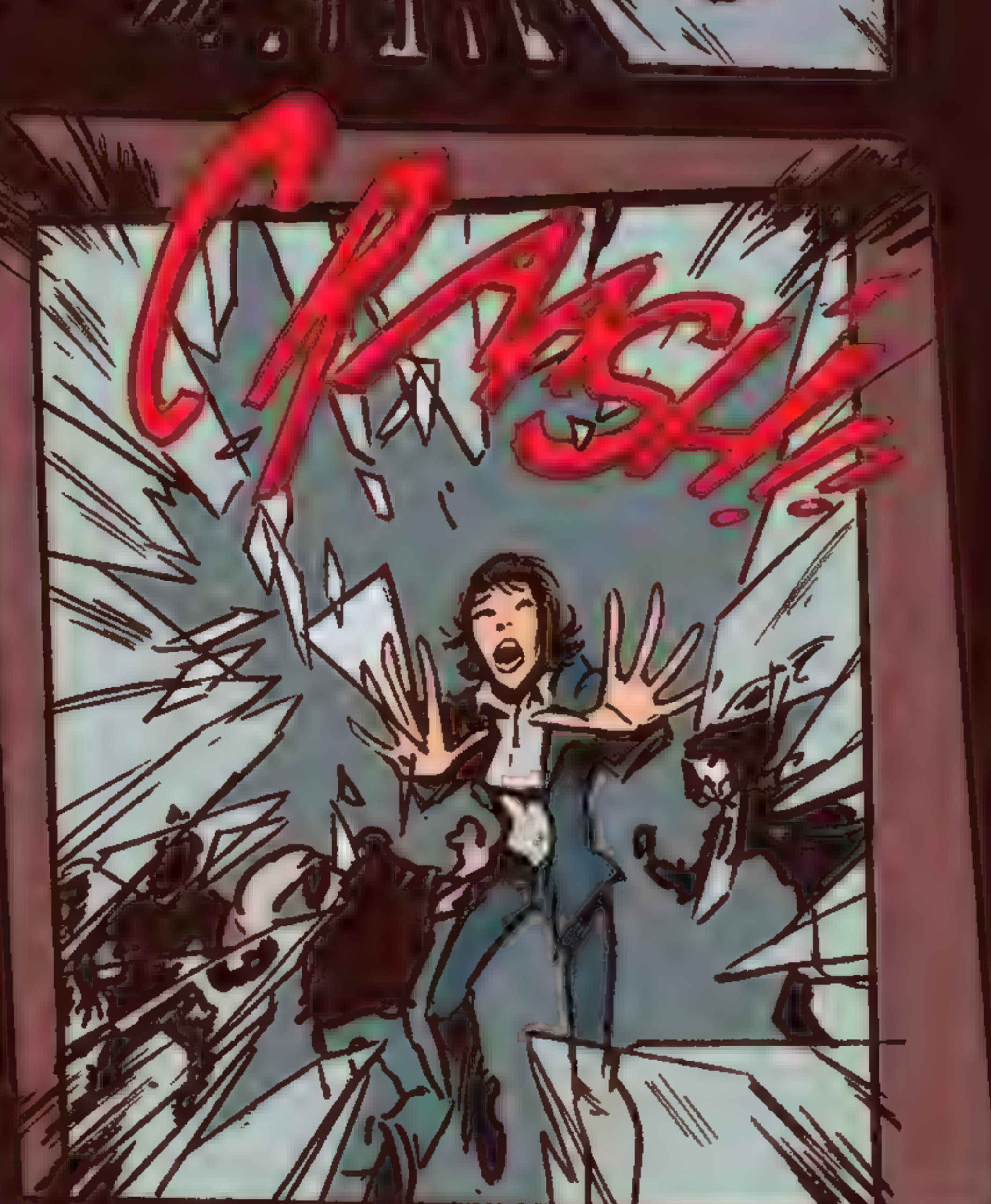
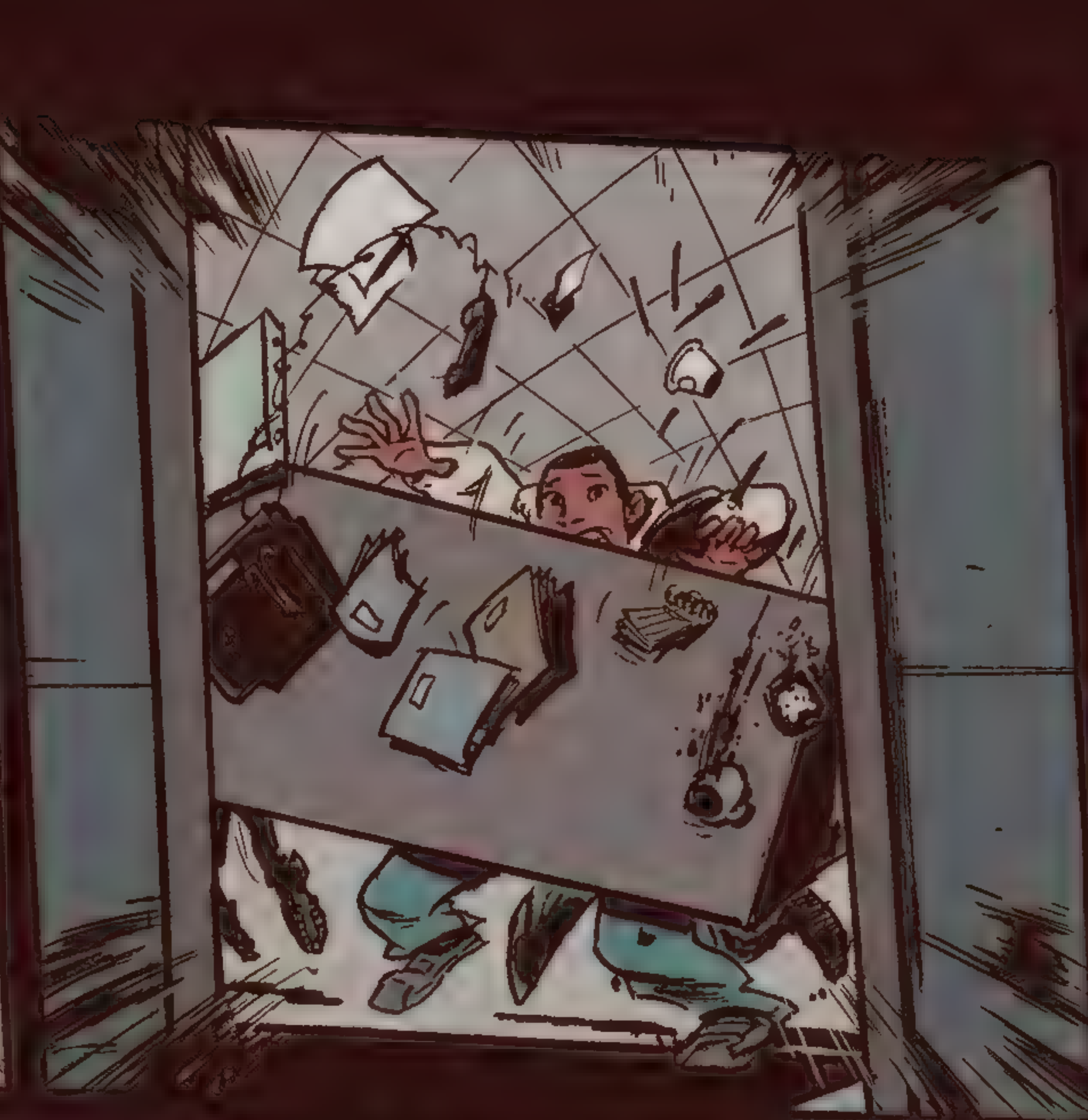
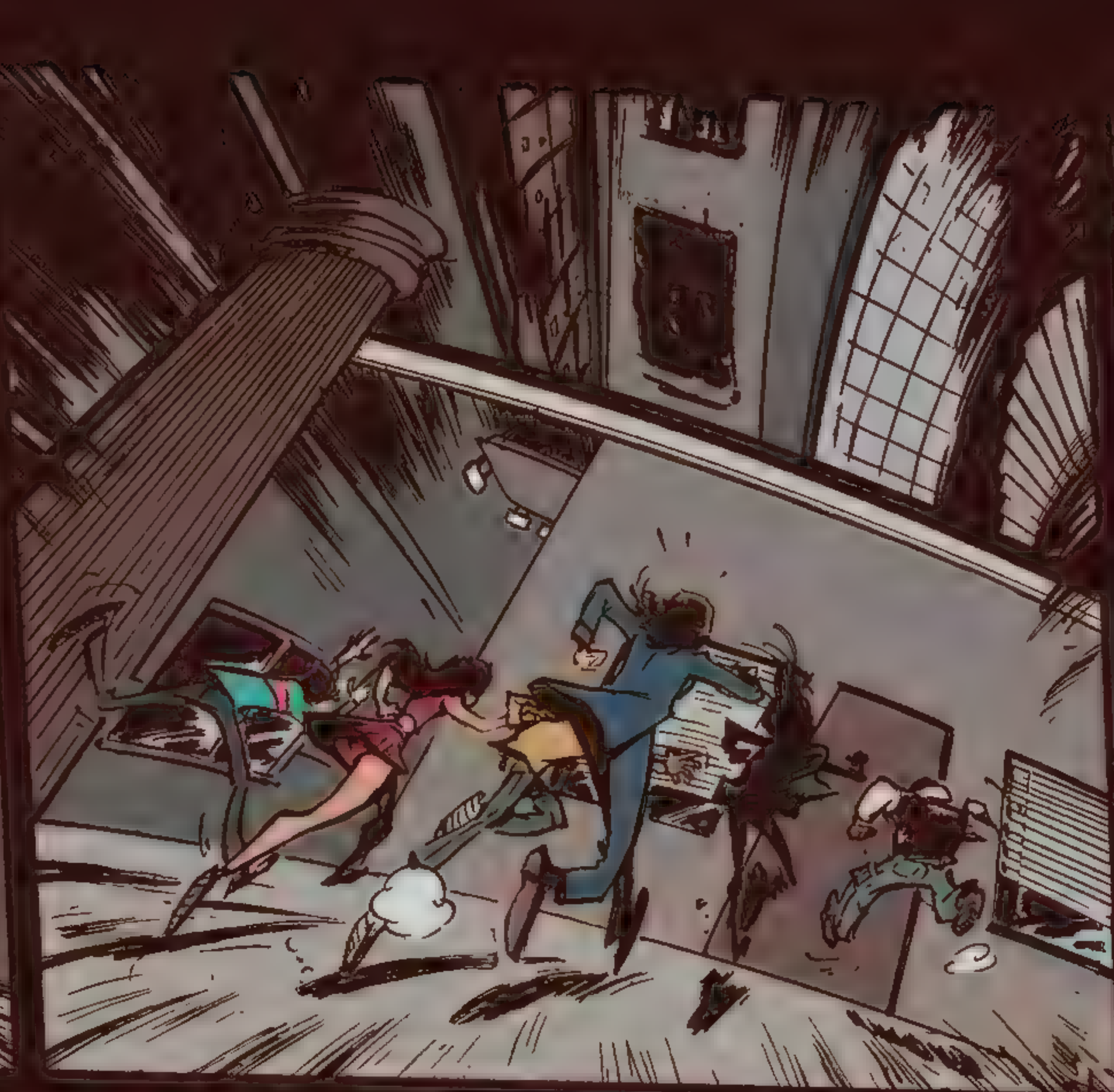




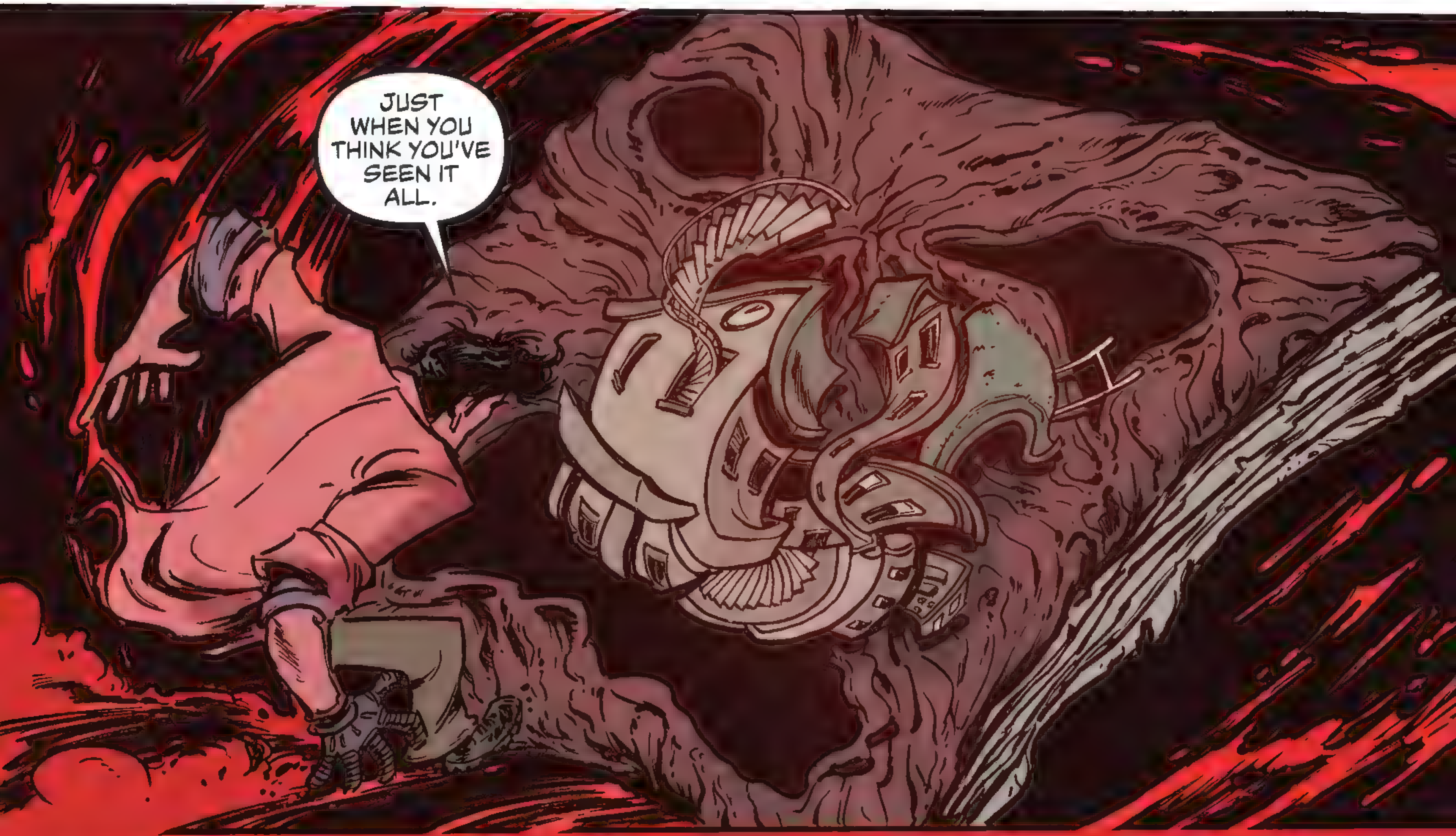


—LIKE
THE BACK
OF MY
HAND!









THAT'S THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM...





STAY
RIGHT THERE,
BABY.

**DADDY'S
COMIN'.**



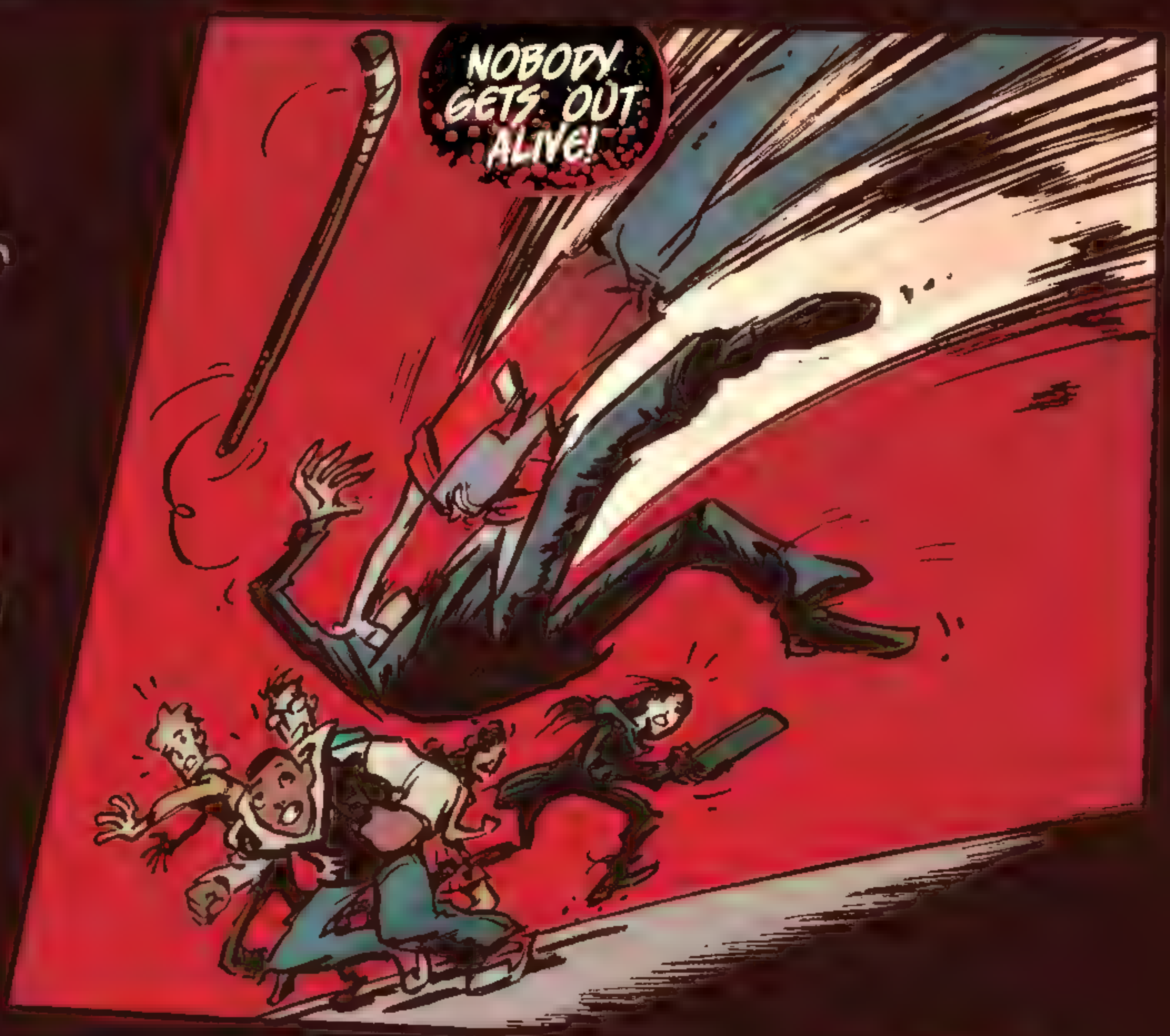
WHERE'D HE GO?!

DID WE LOSE HIM?

JUST KEEP WATCHING. AND IF YOU SEE HIM, RUN.



I'LL HOLD HIM OFF WHILE YOU GET OUT OF HERE.



NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE!



MS. WENTWORTH!

NO!

PAK!!



WE'LL START WITH YOU!



WELL IF
IT ISN'T THE
PROMISED
ONE

WHEN ARE
YOU GOING TO
GET IT, ASH? WE
DON'T WANT YOU
ANYMORE. THE BOOK
HAS BIGGER
PLANS



THAT'S
FUNNY. I GOT
A COUPLE
PLANS OF MY
OWN.

MY
FOOT AND
YOUR ASS,
FUGLY.



YOUR WORLD
IS DAMNED
AND YOU'LL DIE
KNOWING--









THE MIDDLE AGES



AND
SO HE
GOES...

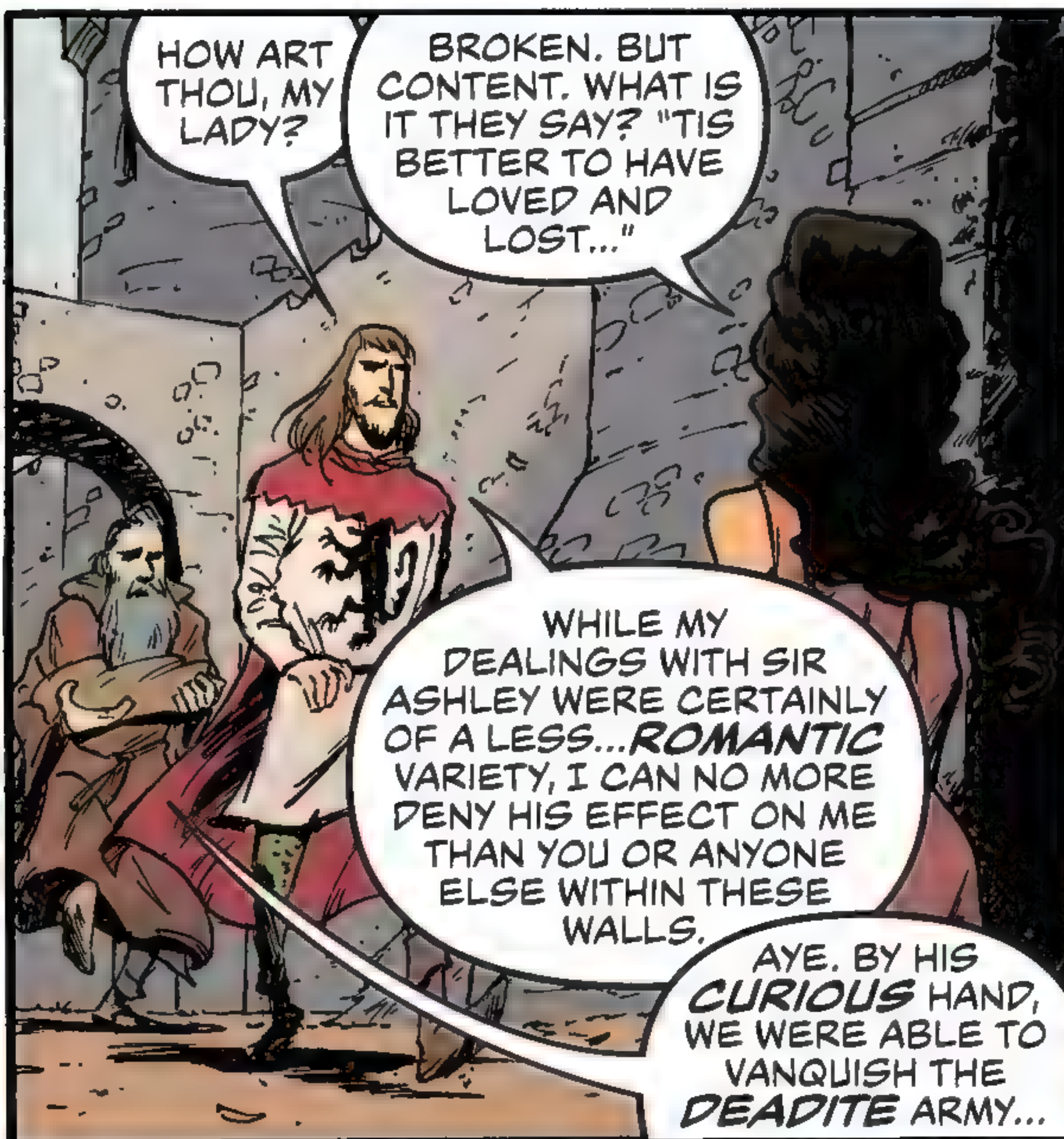


HOW ART
THOU, MY
LADY?

BROKEN. BUT
CONTENT. WHAT IS
IT THEY SAY? "TIS
BETTER TO HAVE
LOVED AND
LOST..."

WHILE MY
DEALINGS WITH SIR
ASHLEY WERE CERTAINLY
OF A LESS...**ROMANTIC**
VARIETY, I CAN NO MORE
DENY HIS EFFECT ON ME
THAN YOU OR ANYONE
ELSE WITHIN THESE
WALLS.

AYE. BY HIS
CURIOUS HAND,
WE WERE ABLE TO
VANQUISH THE
DEADITE ARMY...

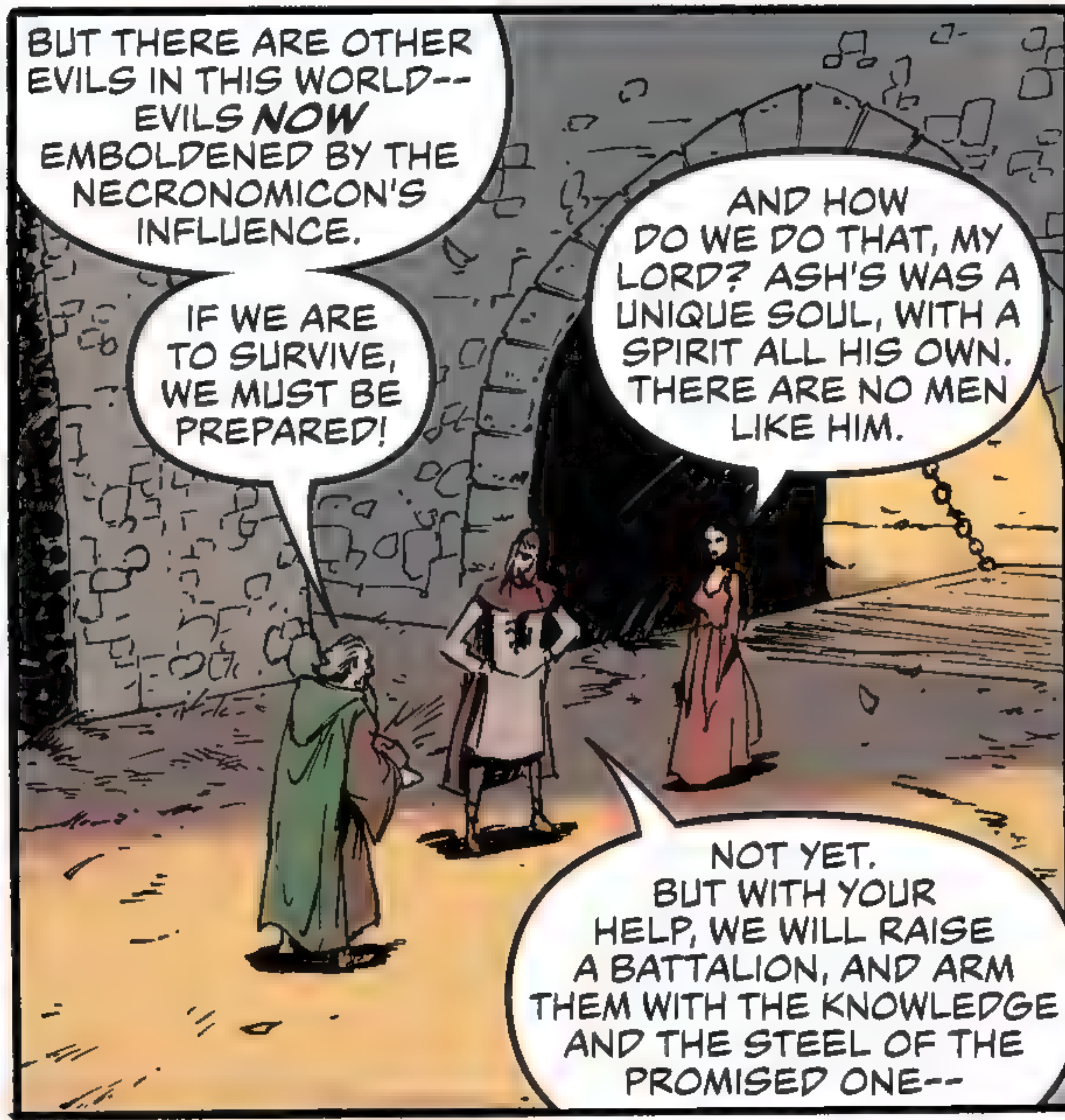


BUT THERE ARE OTHER
EVILS IN THIS WORLD--
EVILS **NOW**
EMBOLDENED BY THE
NECRONOMICON'S
INFLUENCE.

IF WE ARE
TO SURVIVE,
WE MUST BE
PREPARED!

AND HOW
DO WE DO THAT, MY
LORD? ASH'S WAS A
UNIQUE SOUL, WITH A
SPIRIT ALL HIS OWN.
THERE ARE NO MEN
LIKE HIM.

NOT YET.
BUT WITH YOUR
HELP, WE WILL RAISE
A BATTALION, AND ARM
THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE
AND THE STEEL OF THE
PROMISED ONE--



QUITE
LITERALLY.



GOD'S NAME...
AN **ARMY** OF
ASHES?

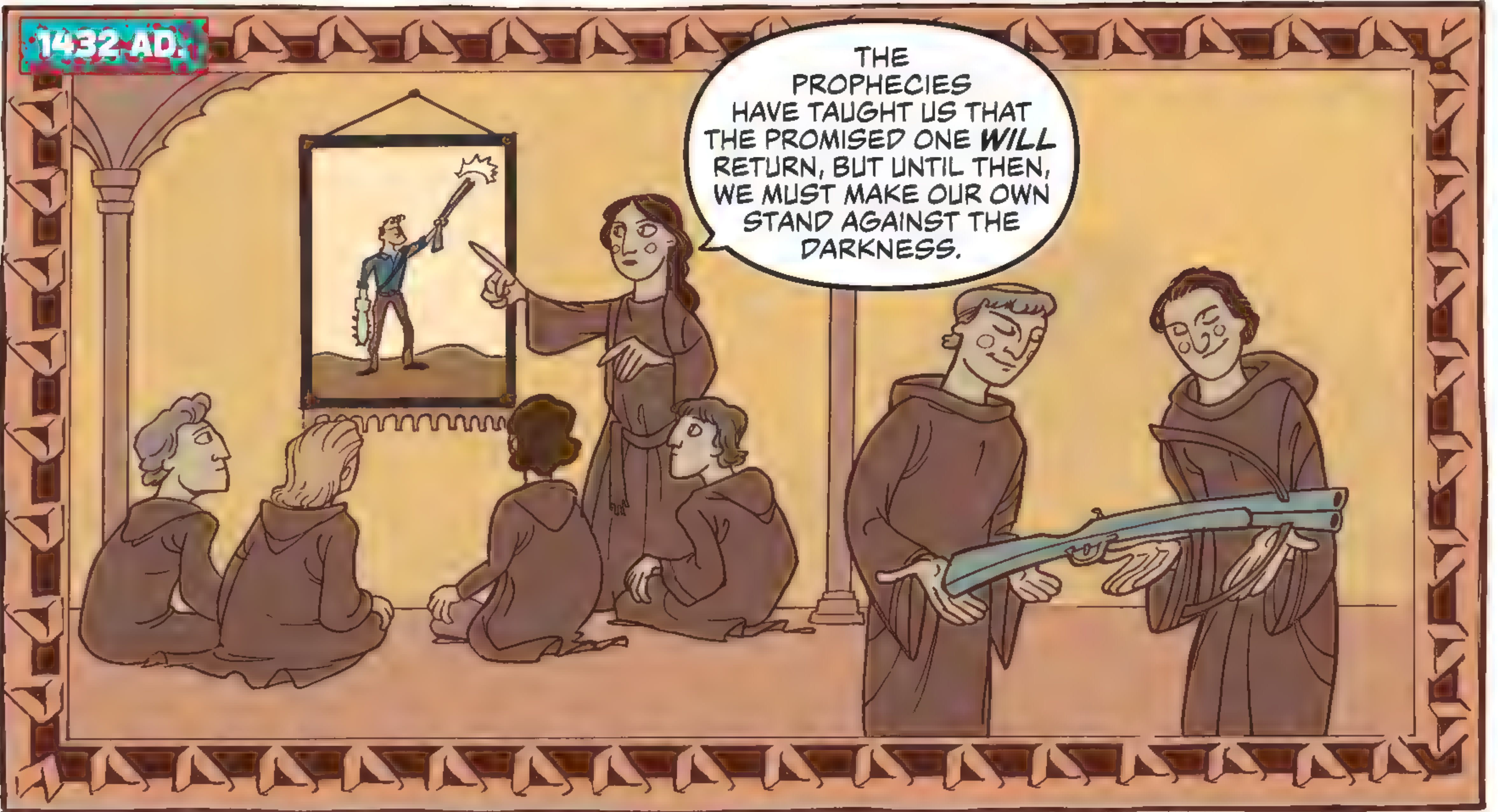
INDEED,
MY LADY...

WILL
YOU LEAD
THEM?



1432 AD.

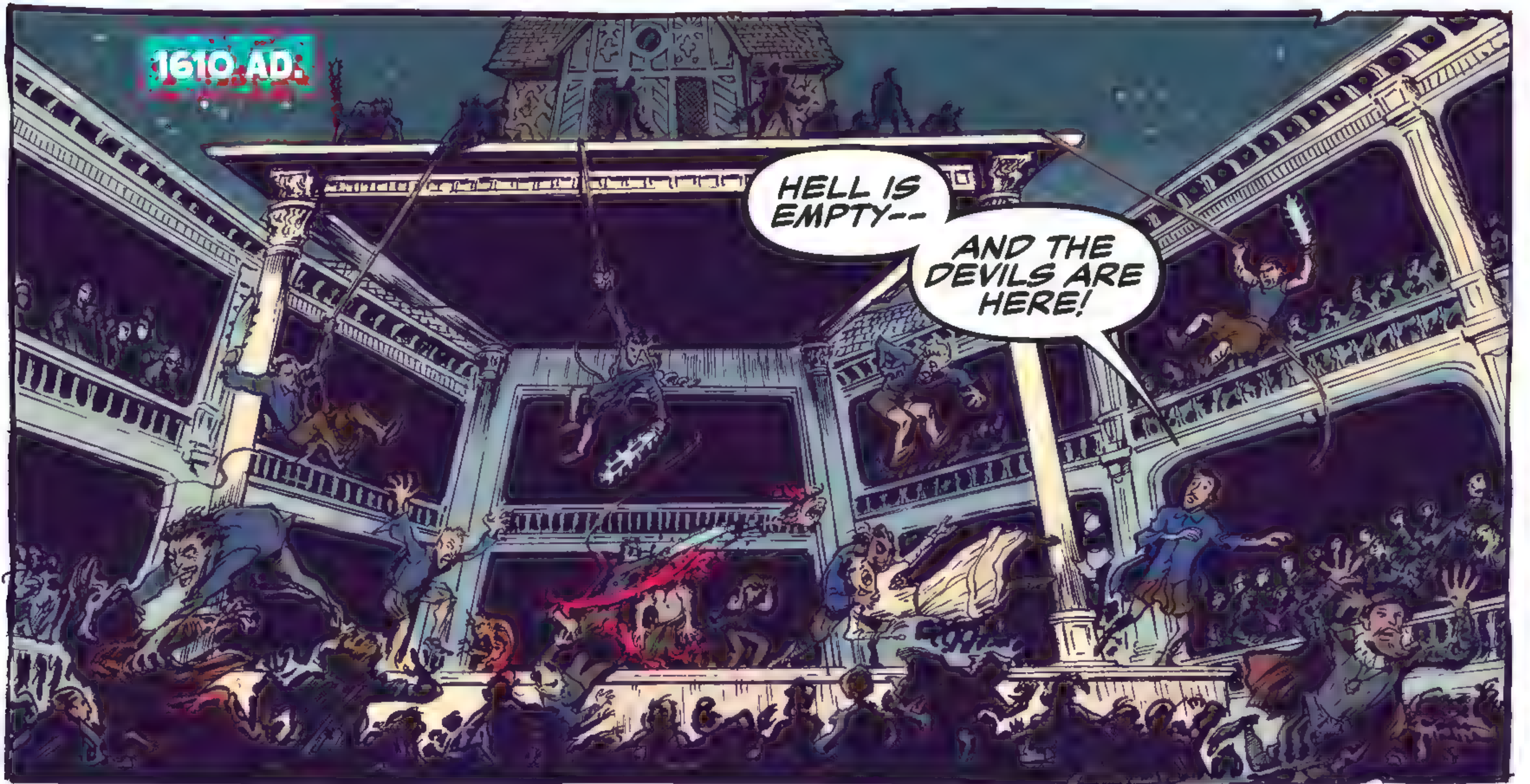
THE
PROPHECIES
HAVE TAUGHT US THAT
THE PROMISED ONE *WILL*
RETURN, BUT UNTIL THEN,
WE MUST MAKE OUR OWN
STAND AGAINST THE
DARKNESS.



1610 AD.

HELL IS
EMPTY--

AND THE
DEVILS ARE
HERE!



1692 AD.

KLAATU...
VERADA...WAIT,
DOES ANYONE
REMEMBER THE
FINAL WORD?!

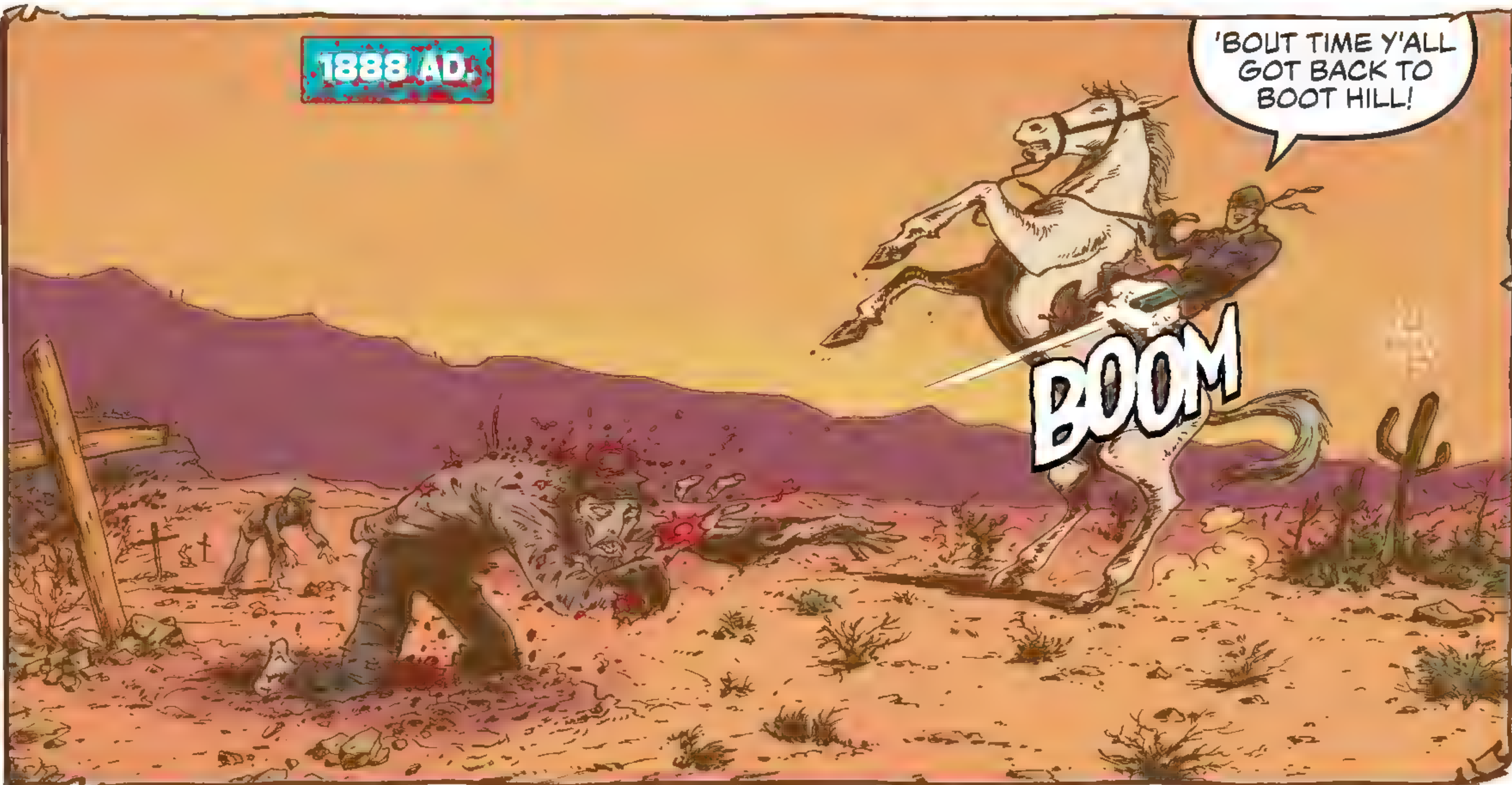


1776 AD.



MERRY CHRISTMAS, YA ROTTEN LITTLE REDCOAT BASTARDS!

1888 AD.



'BOUT TIME Y'ALL GOT BACK TO BOOT HILL!

BOOM

1942 AD.



FACE FRONT, RATZIS! THIS CULT NONSENSE IS HEREBY BUSTED UP COURTESY OF UNCLE SAM'S FAVORITE FRONT-LINERS: SGT. "BOOMER" STICKS AND THE JAW-JACKIN' JOES OF S-COMPANY!

"MY NAME IS ALEXIS DIGGES, AND I'M THE FIELD LEADER FOR THE SUPERNATURAL MILITARY ADJACENT RESPONSE TEAM. WE'VE EXISTED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER SINCE THE EARLY 14TH CENTURY."

TODAY ALAN
SHEPARD HIGH

...A CLANDESTINE
ORDER OF HIGHLY-SKILLED
MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO
THE ERADICATION OF EVIL IN ALL
ITS SUPERNATURAL FORMS, BUT
MOST ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED
TO THE *NECROMICON EX
MORTIS--THE BOOK
OF THE DEAD.*

THAT'S
WHO WE
ARE.

THERE. ANSWERED
YOUR QUESTION
BEFORE YOU HAD
TO ASK.

NOW
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

OH, I'LL
TELL YOU
WHO I AM,
LADY!

I'M THE
GUY--

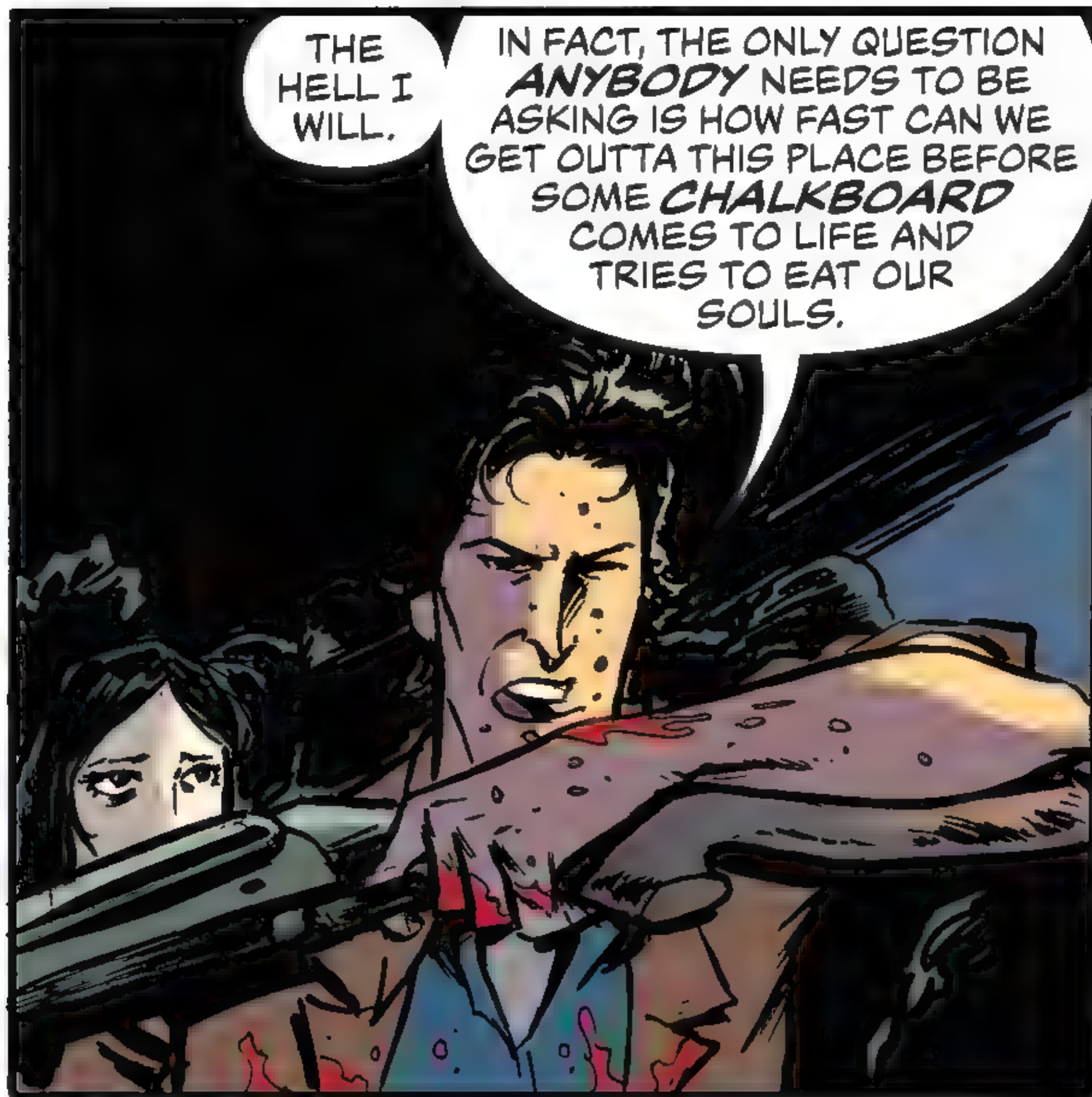
IT'S
ALMOST SUNRISE,
COMMANDER.
NECROMANTIC
ENERGY'S DROPPING
TO *STANDARD
BACKGROUND
LEVELS.*

HEY, I
WAS--

PERIMETER'S
SECURE. NO SIGN
OF *THE BOOK,*
MA'AM.

"NO
SIGN?"
WHAT DO
YOU--

LOCAL NEWS
HAS ALREADY BEEN
ALERTED. WE GAVE
'EM THE *GAS LEAK*
STORY AGAIN.









UH, MR.
WILLIAMS...

WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON?

LANGUAGE,
SANDRA.



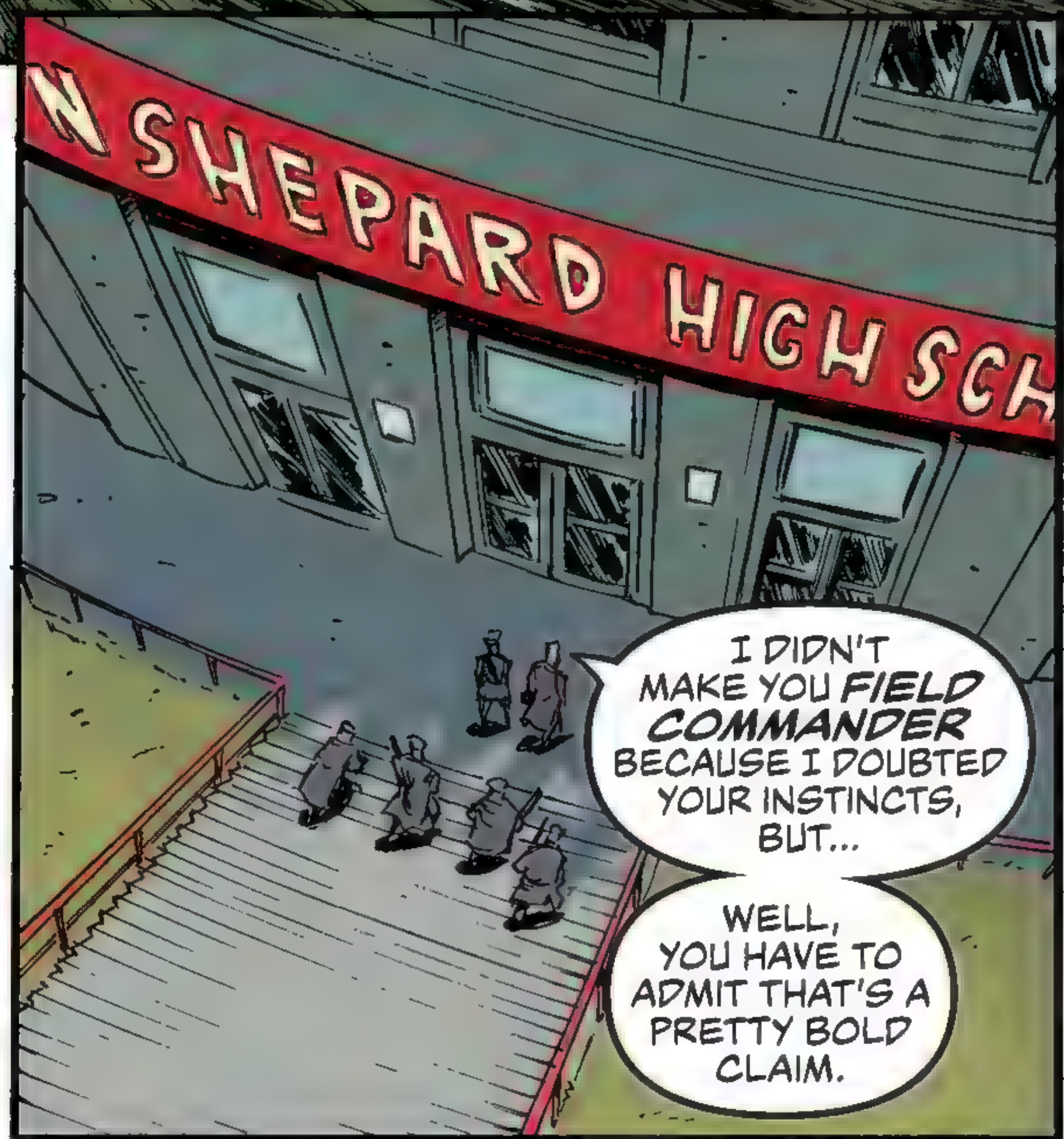
GOOD MORNING, DIRECTOR FRIEDRICH!



COMMANDER DIGGES. YOU'RE SURE IT'S HIM?

I...

YES. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, SIR, BUT I KNOW HE'S T.P.O. I CAN FEEL IT.



I DIDN'T MAKE YOU **FIELD COMMANDER** BECAUSE I DOUBTED YOUR INSTINCTS, BUT...

WELL, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT'S A PRETTY BOLD CLAIM.



S.M.A.R.T. HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THE PROMISED ONE TO RETURN FOR OVER 700 YEARS.

AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE TRACKED DOWN A **WILD GOOSE** LOOKING FOR HIM.



I WOULDN'T DRAG YOU OUT HERE FOR A FALSE ALARM, SIR. HE'S A MATCH FOR **EVERY** BIT OF PROPHECY WE HAVE. HE TICKS EVERY BOX.

THE **BLADED HAND**. THE **CURSED CHARIOT**. THE **CHIN**!

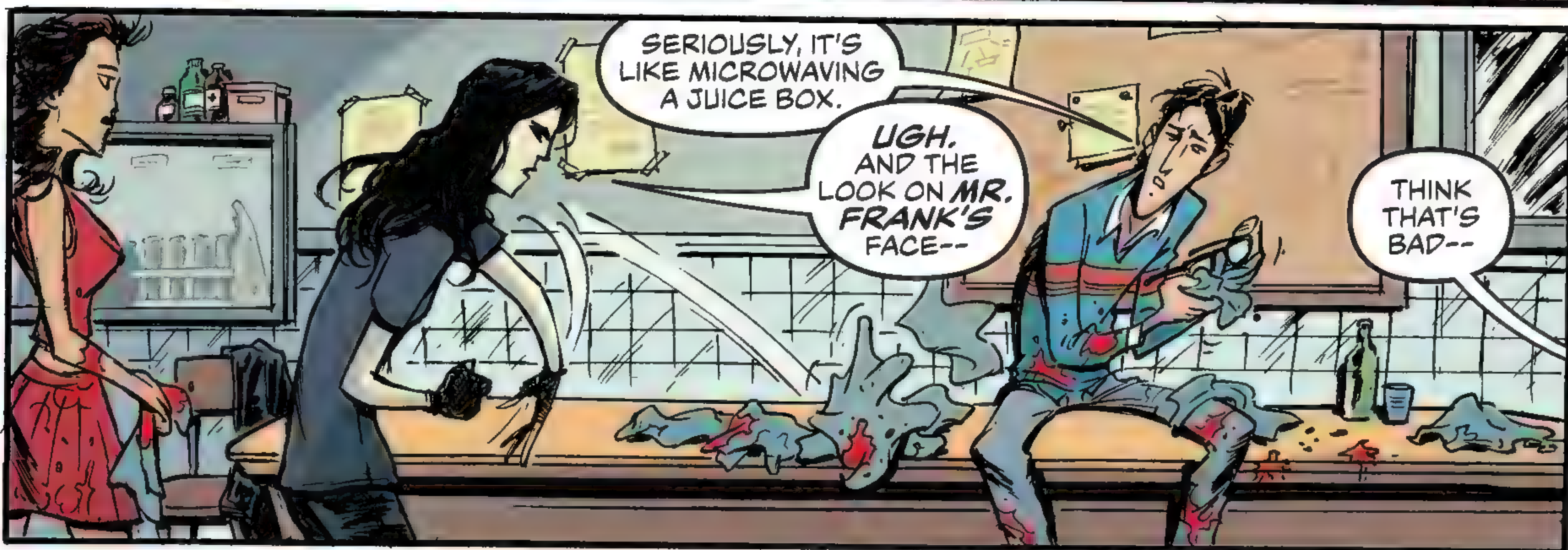
AND HE **KNOWS** THE NECRONOMICON, SIR.

IT'S HIM. I'D BET MY LIFE ON IT.



LOOKS LIKE THE KIDS ARE ALL GOOD. LOTS OF BLOOD, BUT THANKFULLY, NONE OF IT'S THEIRS.

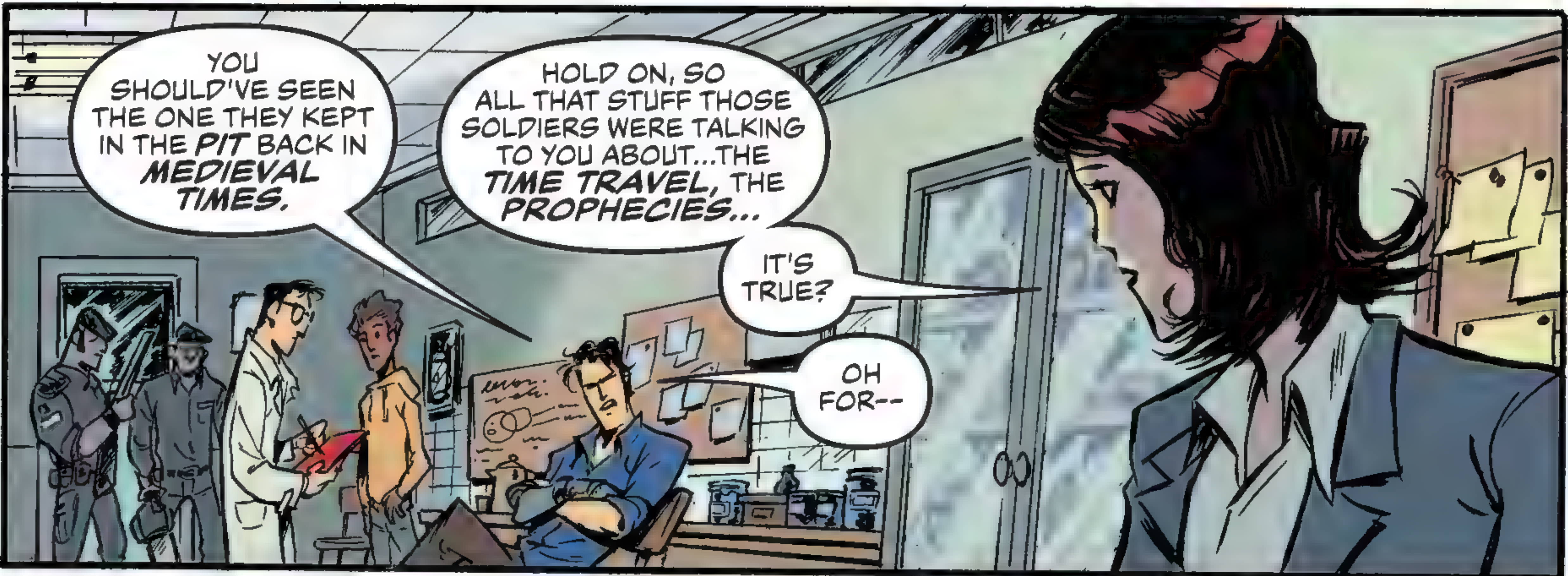
HOW DO THOSE THINGS EVEN HAVE THAT MUCH INSIDE THEM?



SERIOUSLY, IT'S LIKE MICROWAVING A JUICE BOX.

UGH. AND THE LOOK ON MR. FRANK'S FACE--

THINK THAT'S BAD--



YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE ONE THEY KEPT IN THE PIT BACK IN MEDIEVAL TIMES.

HOLD ON, SO ALL THAT STUFF THOSE SOLDIERS WERE TALKING TO YOU ABOUT...THE TIME TRAVEL, THE PROPHECIES...

IT'S TRUE?

OH FOR--



SEE WHAT YOU MISS WHEN YOU FOCUS ON THE HAND?

YEAH, WELL...



YOU ASK ME, IT'S BULL.

WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME STUDYING THE PROPHECIES OF THE **PROMISED ONE**, AND LET ME TELL YOU, PAL...

YOU DON'T **MEASURE UP**.

IS THAT RIGHT?



WELL I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING NOBODY ASKED YOU, **ROID RAGE**.

SETTLE DOWN, PINT SIZE. I MEAN, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS--YOU GOT SOME FANCY MOVES. WHERE'D YOU TRAIN? DELTA? SPEC OPS?

HOUSEWARES.



SO DOES EVERYBODY IN THIS **RINKY DINK** OPERATION HAVE AN EGO LIKE YOURS, OR ARE YOU JUST **COMPENSATING**?

COMES WITH THE TERRITORY. YOU SURVIVE A COUPLE SCRAPS WITH THE **DEADITES**, AND YOU START TO REALIZE HOW DAMN GOOD YOU REALLY ARE.

YOU'LL GET THERE ONE DAY, JUNIOR.



YOU LITTLE--

AH, MR. WILLIAMS.



JUST THE MAN WE'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE. I HEAR YOU HAVE SOME THINGS TO TELL US ABOUT THE **NECRONOMICON**.

EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU THE ONE IN CHARGE HERE?



IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BE **FILLED** WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, AND I CAN'T HAVE MY PEOPLE DEALING WITH THIS...THIS... **HAUNTED HOUSE STUFF**.

YOUR PEOPLE HAVEN'T LET ME CALL ANYONE SINCE THEY ARRIVED, BUT I **NEED** TO GET THE WORD OUT THAT SCHOOL IS CANCELED.



ABSOLUTELY NOT. YOUR SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE AS NORMAL.

I'M SORRY, **WHAT?!**



I KNOW IT'S FRIGHTENING, BUT IF WE TRULY WANT TO STOP THE NECRONOMICON FROM EXERTING ITS CONTROL OVER YOUR SCHOOL, WE HAVE TO PUT AN END TO IT **PERMANENTLY**.

WHATEVER IT'S DOING **MUST** BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE FOR NOW.



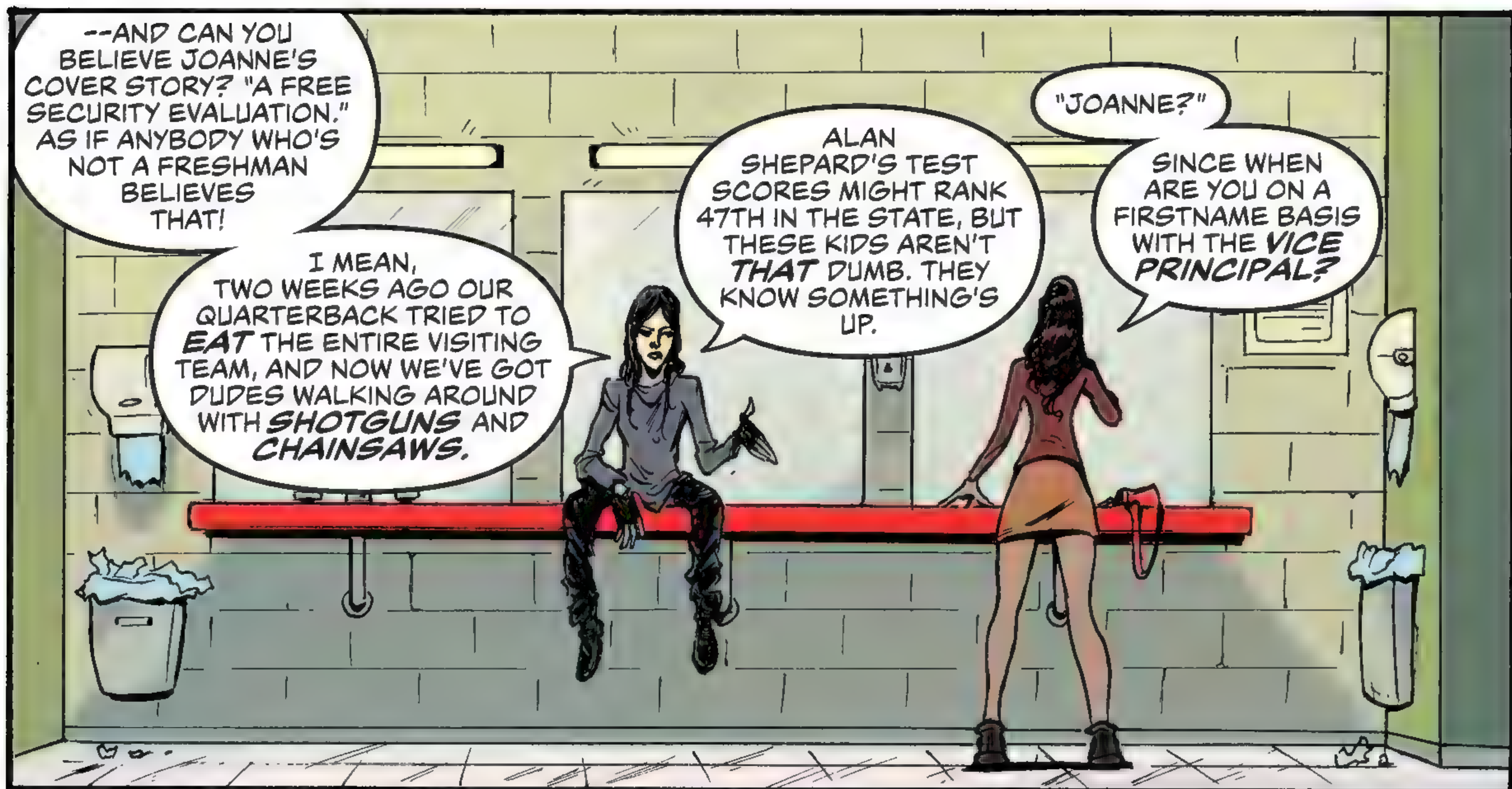
THE FACT THAT **MR. WILLIAMS** HAS BEEN DRAWN HERE--IF HE IS IN FACT THE PROMISED ONE OF LEGEND--MEANS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER THAN WE'VE SEEN BEFORE.

BUT DON'T WORRY. **MY PEOPLE** WILL BE HERE TO KEEP YOURS SAFE.



UH...I THINK WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE A SICK DAY.







THEY'RE
NOT MUCH FOR
SUBTLETY,
ARE THEY?



TAKE
IT FROM ME,
BABY--**SUBTLETY'S**
OVERRATED. IT'S A LOT
BETTER TO GO **HEAD**
ON AT THE STUFF
WE'RE DEALING
WITH.



OR USED TO BE
DEALING WITH, I GUESS.
HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THEY'RE
EFFECTIVE. IT'S BEEN A
WEEK SINCE THE LAST TIME
WE SAW **DEADITES**
AROUND HERE.

GOD HELP ME,
BUT I'M ACTUALLY
STARTING TO **LEARN**
SOMETHING ABOUT THE
RENAISSANCE.



SO IF YOU'VE GOT THEM
AROUND, I SHOULD
PROBABLY BE GETTING
BACK TO MY **REAL** JOB.
AUTO SHOP'S ALMOST
DONE WITH THE
DELTA ANYWAY,
RIGHT?

WHAT?!
YOU'RE
LEAVING?



ASH, YOU CAN'T. I DON'T
CARE HOW MUCH **MILITARY**
HARDWARE THEY HAVE,
I DON'T **TRUST** THEM
AROUND MY KIDS.

I **NEED**
YOU HERE.



LISTEN, JOANNE.
THIS HAPPENS TO
ME ALL THE TIME.
IT'S THESE CO-ED
WORKPLACES--

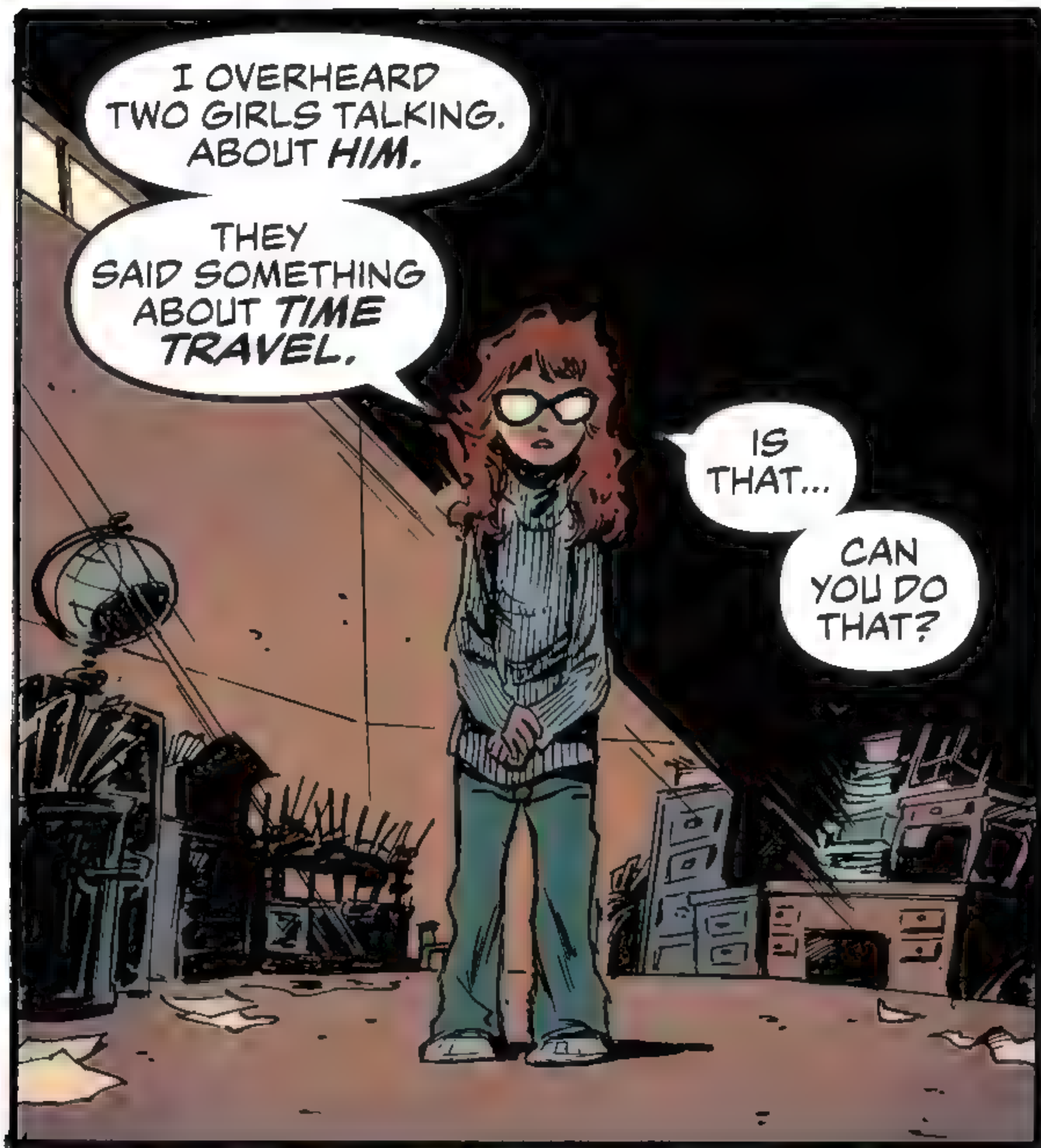
NO--

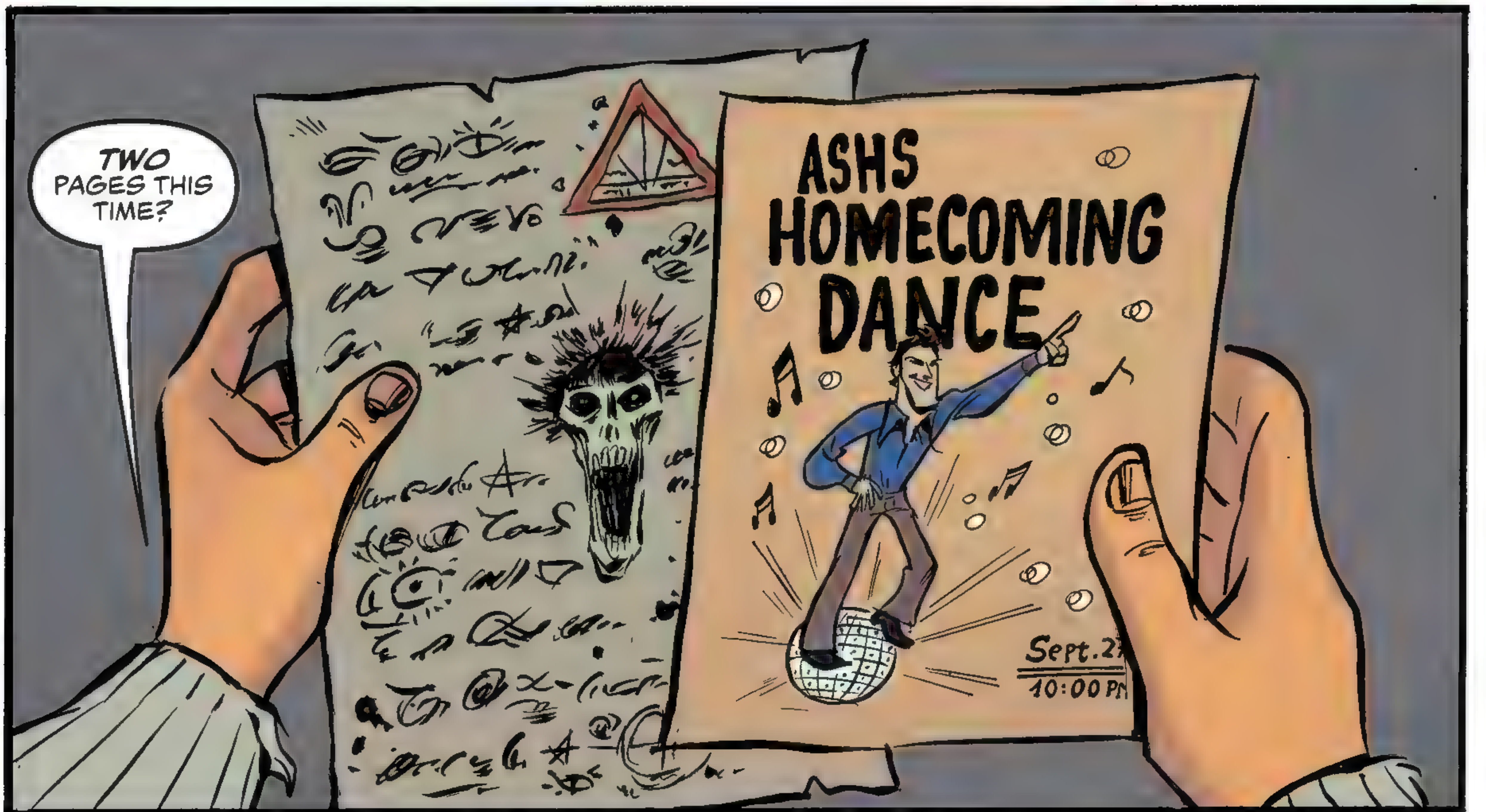
EXCUSE
ME FOR A
MOMENT.















ALAN SHEPHERD
HIGH SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY.

ALAN SHEPARD HIGH SCHOOL



YIKES. PRINCIPAL WENTWORTH IS **REALLY** PISSED! SHE'S **NEVER** GONNA LET US GRADUATE AFTER TODAY.

LOOK AT HER EYES, DUDE...SHE'S FREAKING ME OUT.

WELL YOU GUYS **DID** JUST WRECK THE SCHOOL'S NEWLY RENOVATED CAFETERIA. IF YOU THINK **SHE'S** MAD, WAIT 'TIL THE PTA FINDS OUT.



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU. A FROG MONSTER TRIED TO EAT ME LAST WEEK. TWO DAYS AGO **GROUNDKEEPER KILL-Y** TRIED TO MURDER US IN **THIS VERY** SCHOOL...

AND YOU'RE TELLING ME **FIVE FOOT SIX**, A HUNDRED AND FORTY POUNDS SOAKING WET **JOANNE WENTWORTH** IS "FREAKING YOU OUT"?

FROG MONSTER CAN'T KEEP ME FROM GETTING INTO A GOOD COLLEGE.

POOR DAVIS.



--JUST RENOVATED THE CAFETERIA! I MEAN, WHO'S GOING TO CLEAN UP THAT MESS? THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SAYS I CAN'T MAKE **YOU** DO IT!

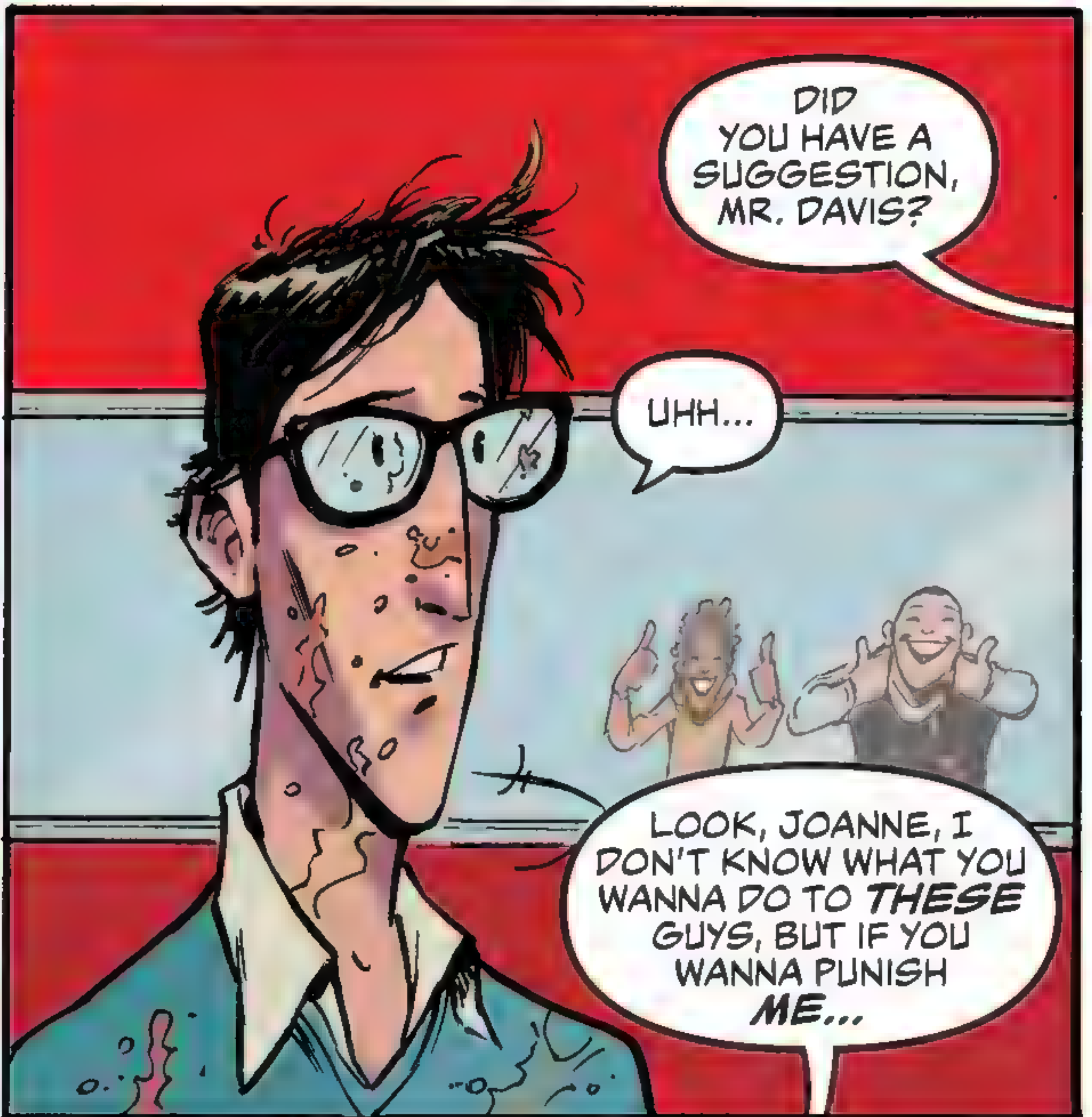
WHAT PUNISHMENT IS GOING TO MAKE YOUR LIVES AS MISERABLE AS YOU'VE MADE MINE, HUH?!



DID YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION, MR. DAVIS?

UHH...

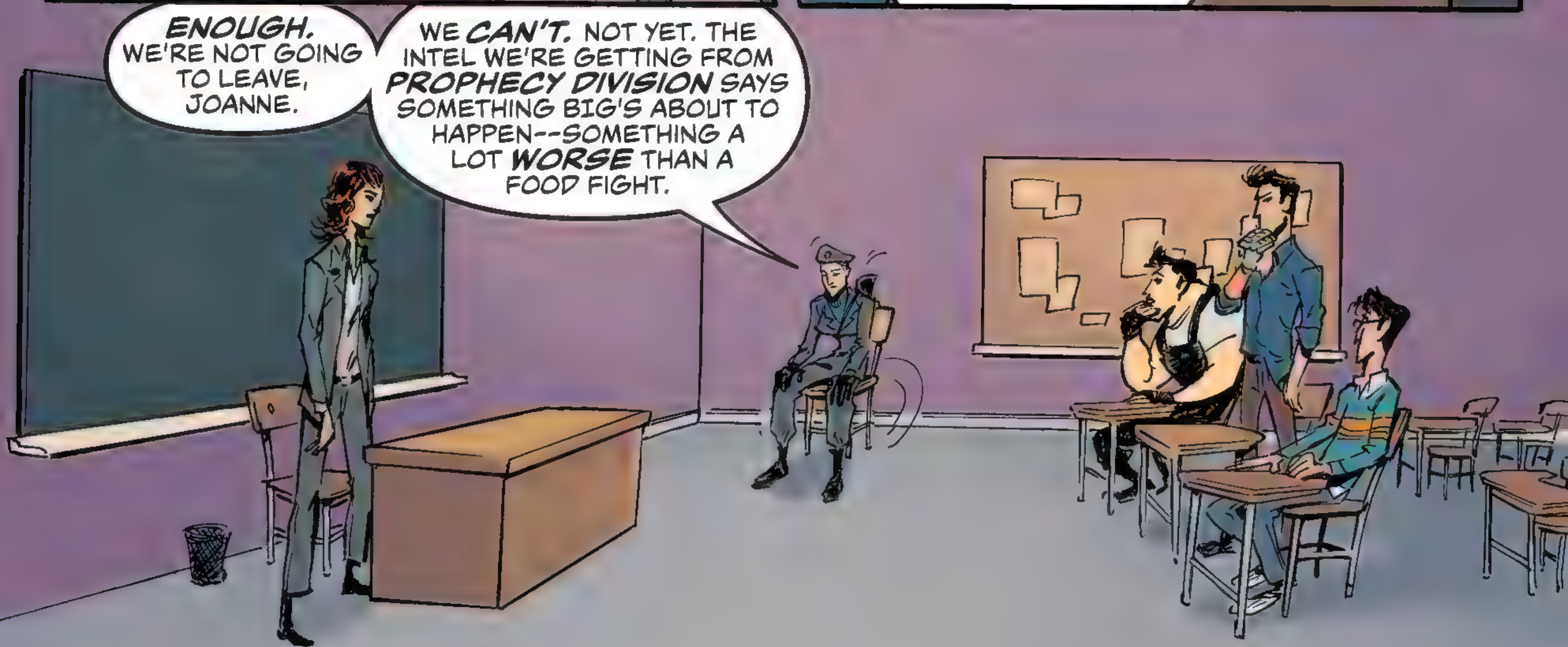
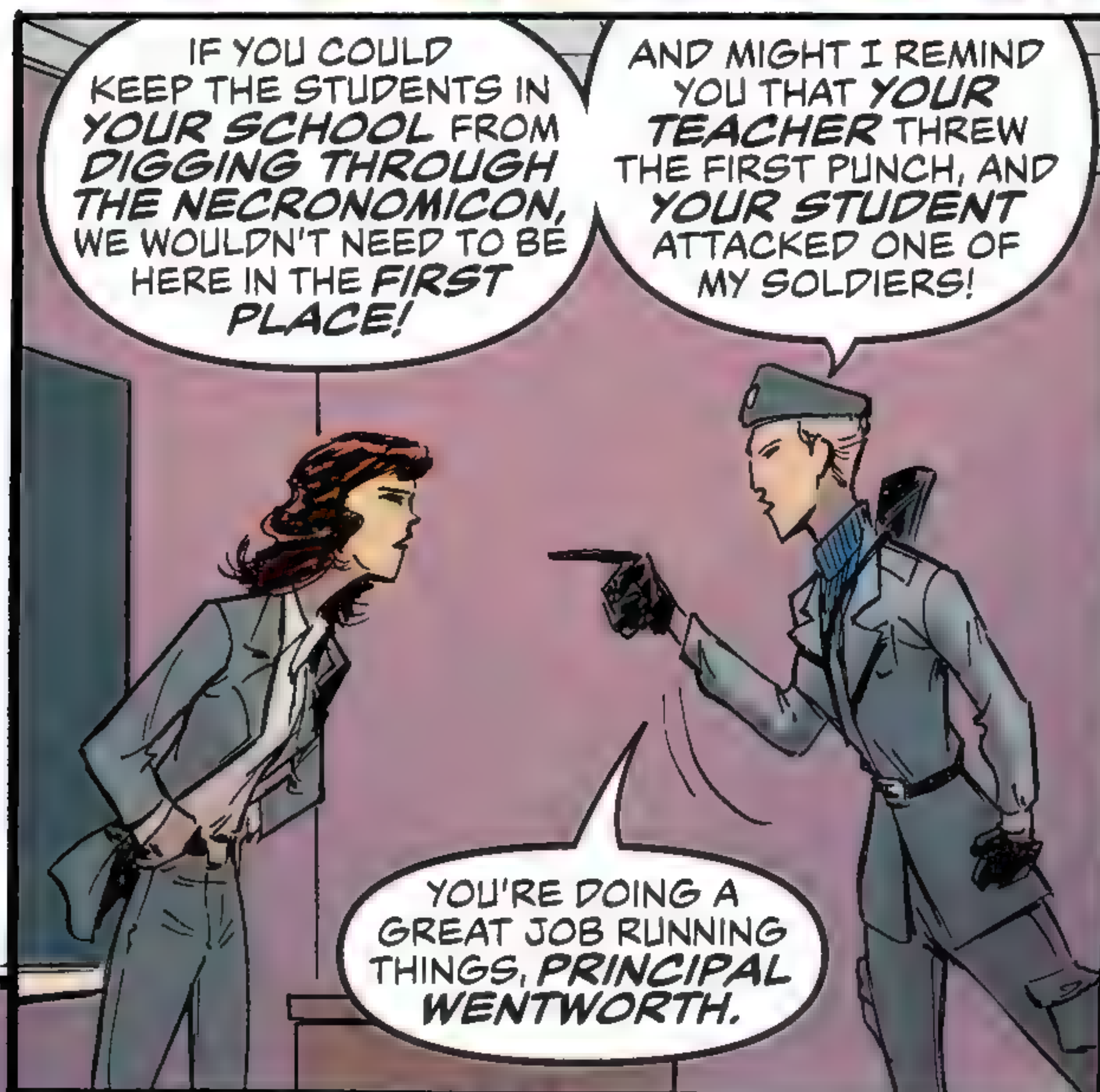
LOOK, JOANNE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANNA DO TO **THESE** GUYS, BUT IF YOU WANNA PUNISH **ME...**





IS
SPANKING
STILL A
THING?

SMART!







GREAT JOB, G.I. JACKASS.

KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH, SLIM. IT'S THE ONLY THING YOU SEEM TO BE GOOD AT.



DAVIS! ARE YOU OKAY, DUDE? WENTWORTH WE REALLY TEARING INTO YOU.

I GOTTA KNOW, MAN-- WHAT WAS THAT HOT SOLDIER LADY SAYING TO MR. WILLIAMS AND HIS JACKED UP CLONE?

IN A MINUTE. FIRST, I GOTTA DO SOMETHING.

MARI?

YEAH?



OKAY, SO, UH...

DO YOU, UH, MAYBE... WANNA GO TO HOMECOMING?

I MEAN, WITH ME. DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME?

DAVIS, I-I--



HOLD ON! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN THERE?

I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE FIRST GRADE. YOU'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED ABOUT GOING TO A DANCE BEFORE, AND NOW--

--AFTER TWENTY MINUTES IN THERE, YOU'VE GOT BALLS ENOUGH TO ASK THE HOTTEST GIRL IN SCHOOL?!

SANDRA? DO YOU--

NOT TALKING TO YOU, MARI!



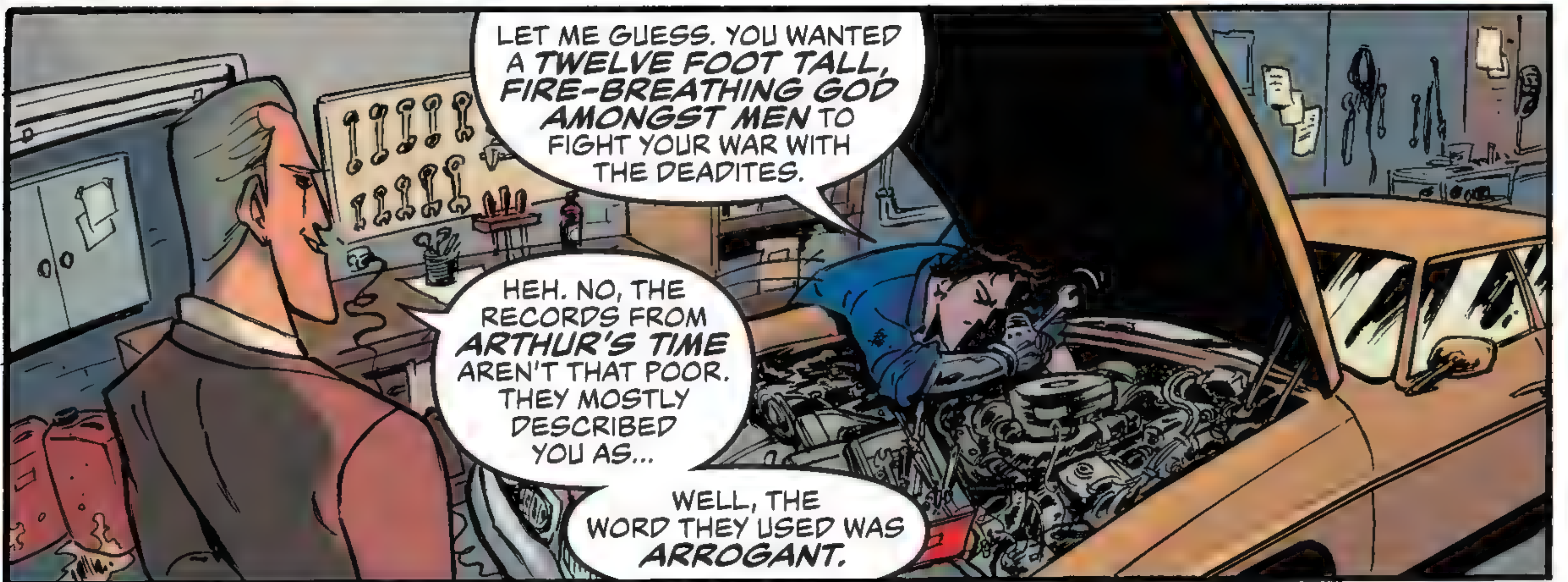
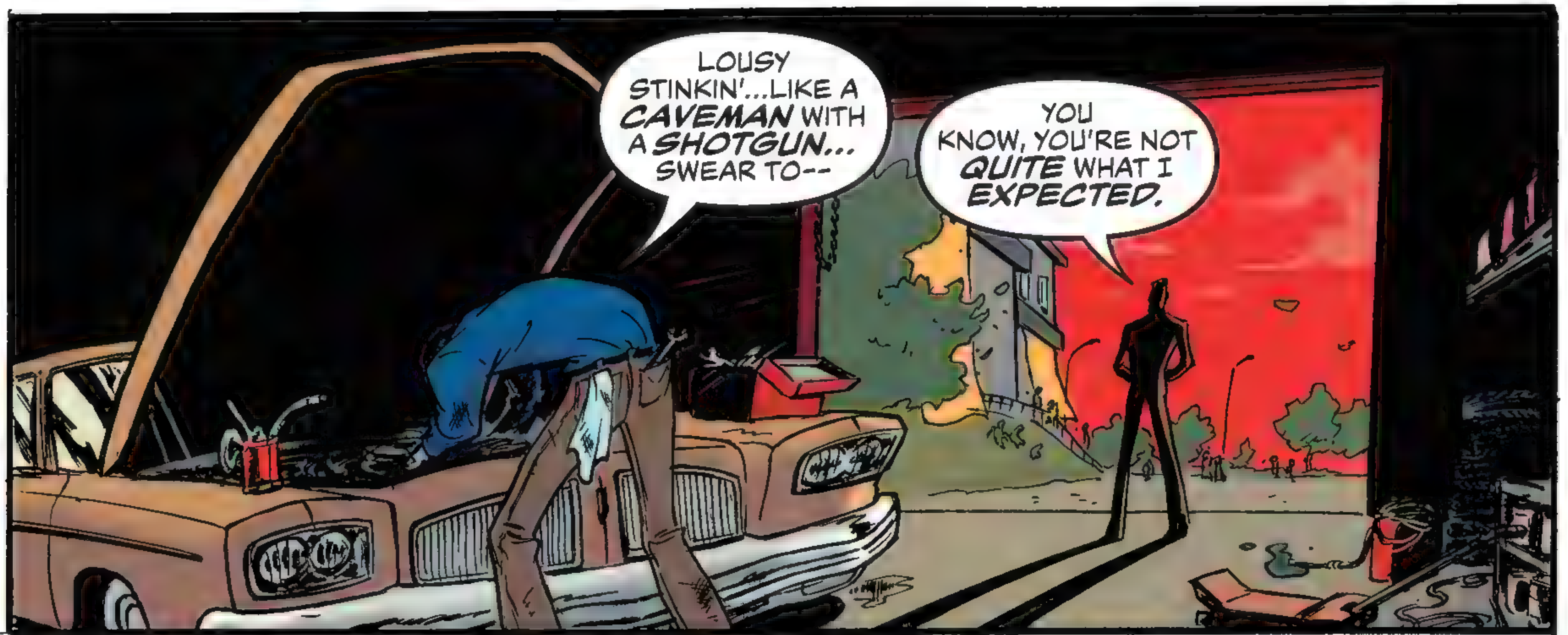
COMMANDER DIGGES THINKS SOMETHING BIG'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

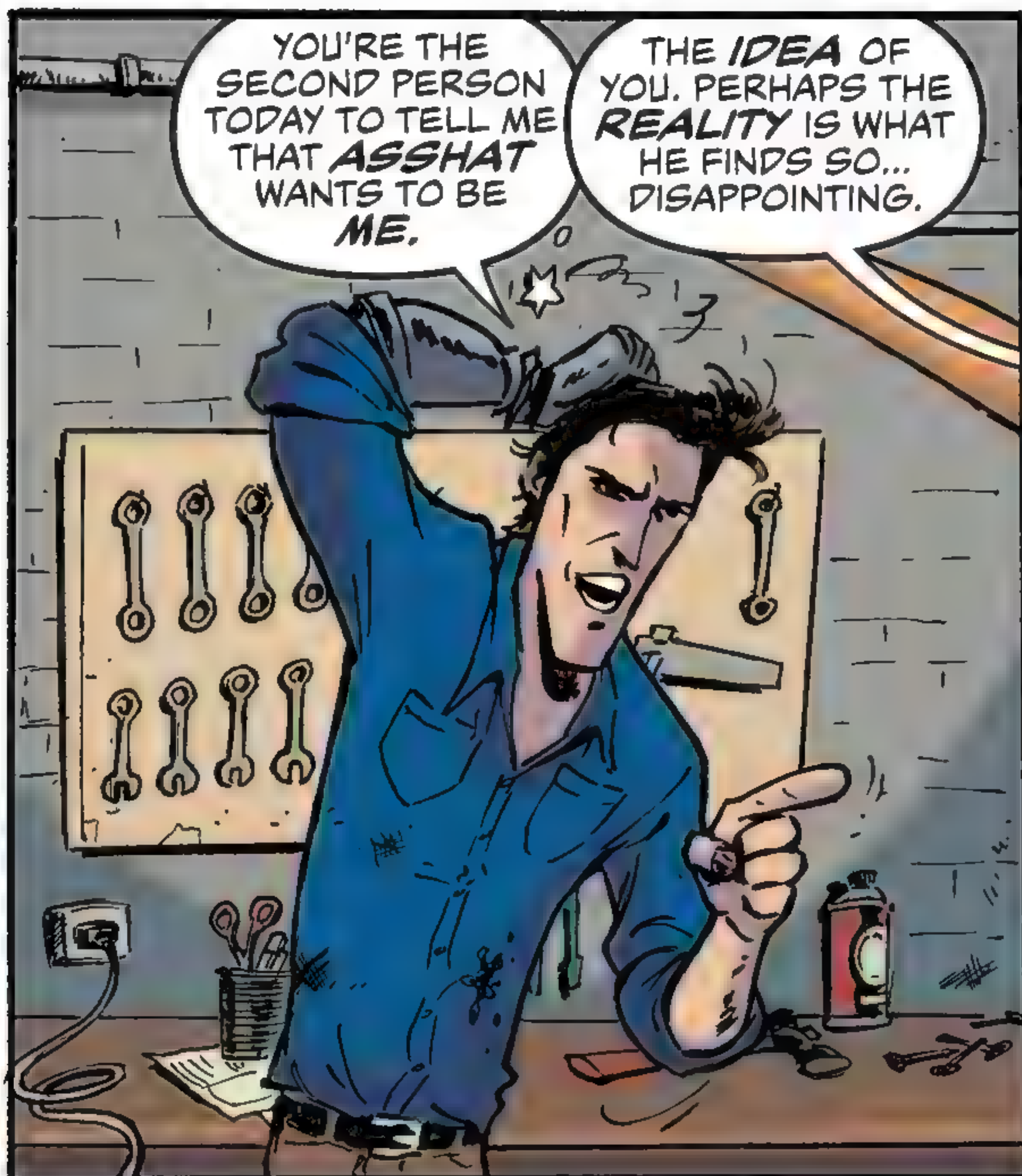


THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE OR WHEN EXACTLY, BUT... IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE SOON.

SO YEAH, DATE OR NO DATE--







YOU'RE THE SECOND PERSON TODAY TO TELL ME THAT **ASSHAT** WANTS TO BE **ME**.

THE **IDEA** OF YOU. PERHAPS THE **REALITY** IS WHAT HE FINDS SO... DISAPPOINTING.



WATCH IT, "**GLEN**". I'M **ALREADY** PISSED OFF ABOUT HOW MY DAY'S GOING.

NO DISRESPECT. IT'S JUST THE WAY THE **LEGENDS** WERE PHRASED, THAT'S ALL.



THE WISE MAN WROTE OF A BRASH KNIGHT WHO UNITED **TWO WARRING KINGDOMS** INTO ONE, WHO TOOK A **BAND OF PEASANTS AND LABORERS** AND SHARED WITH THEM THE **SECRETS OF FIRE**.

A **KING** SO NOBLE THAT HE REFUSED A **KINGDOM**.

YOU CAN SEE HOW FINDING A **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** INSTEAD COULD BE A BIT OF A LETDOWN.



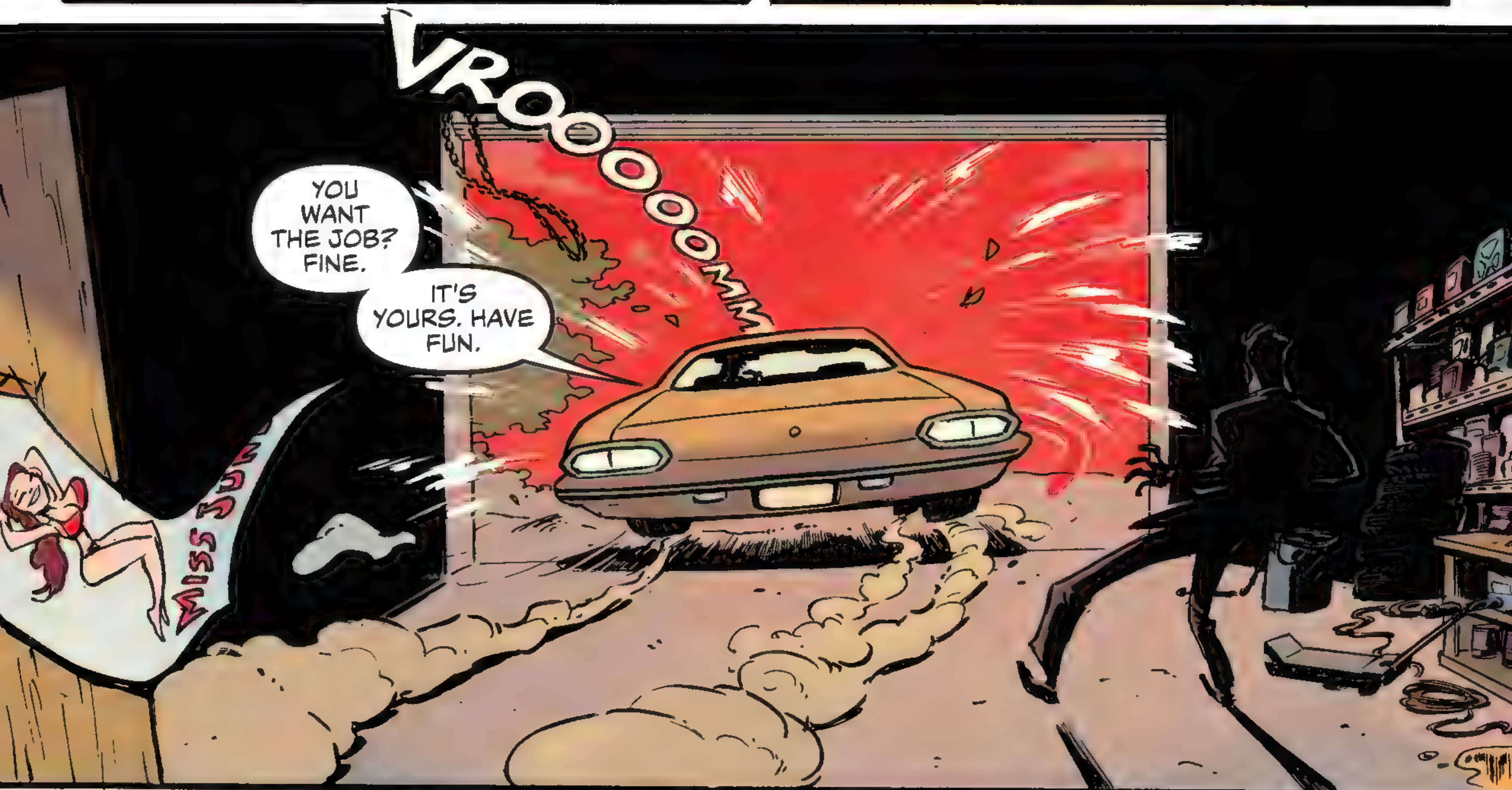
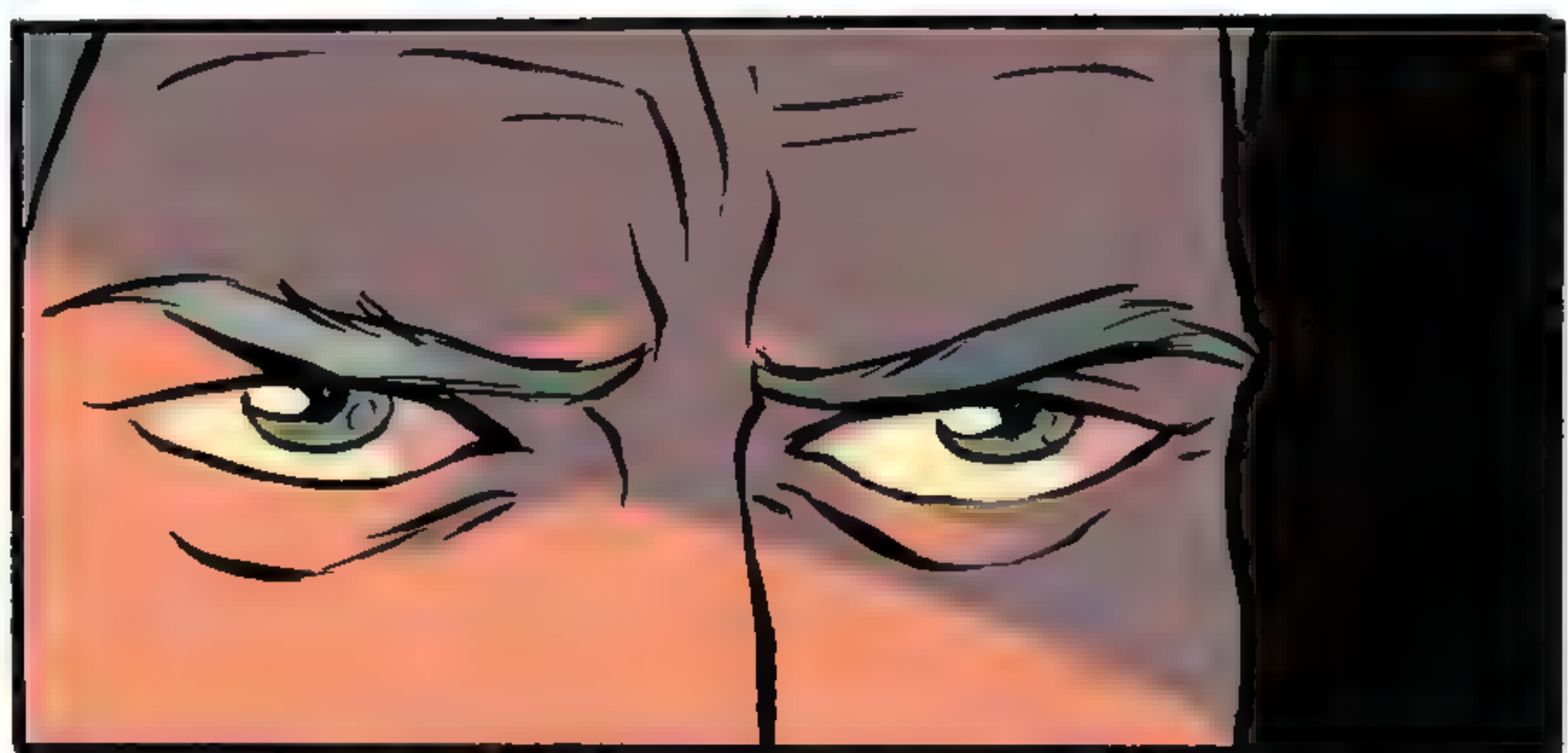
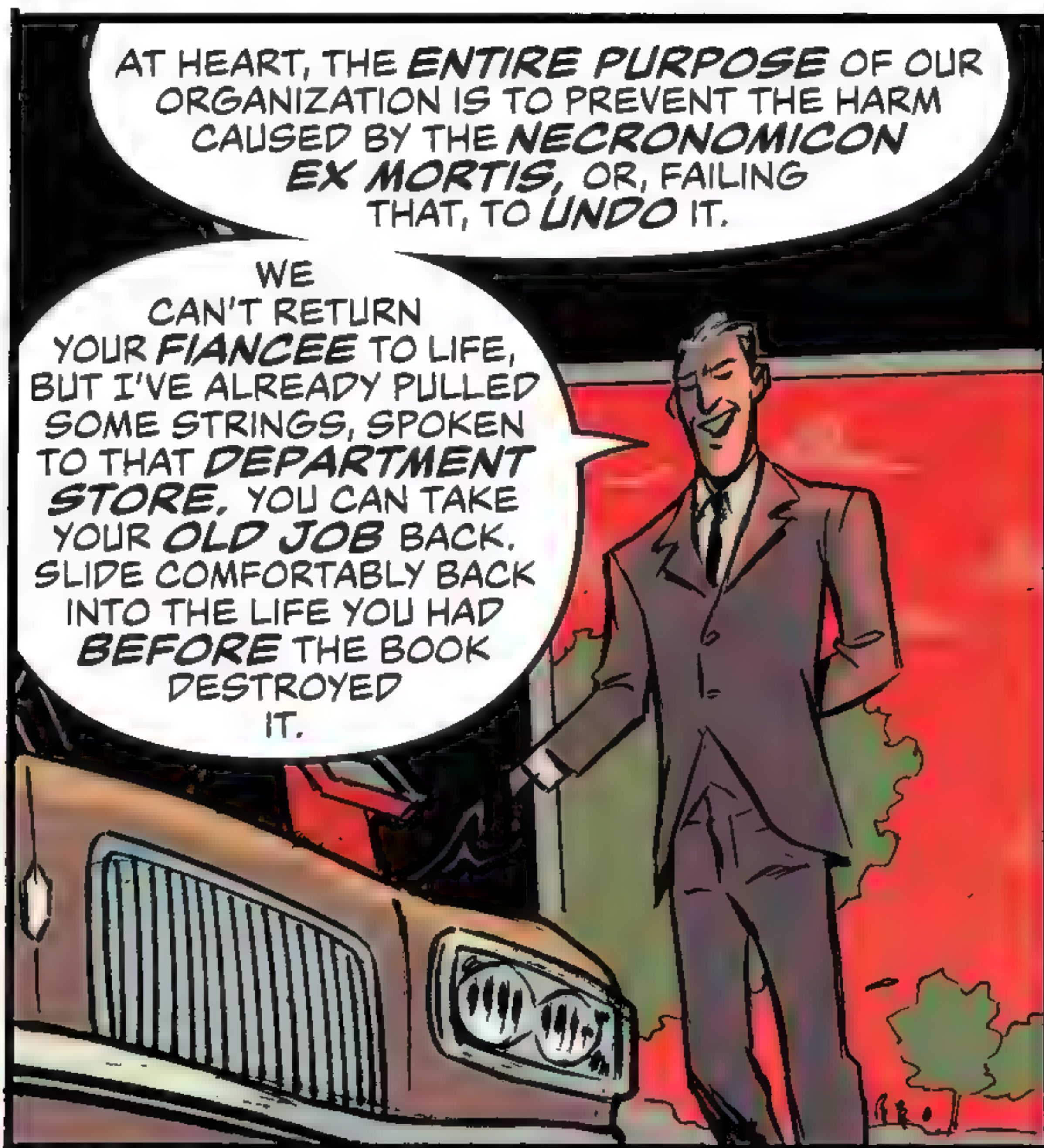
I NEVER WANTED TO BE YOUR DAMNED **PROMISED ONE**.

WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T **HAVE TO BE**?

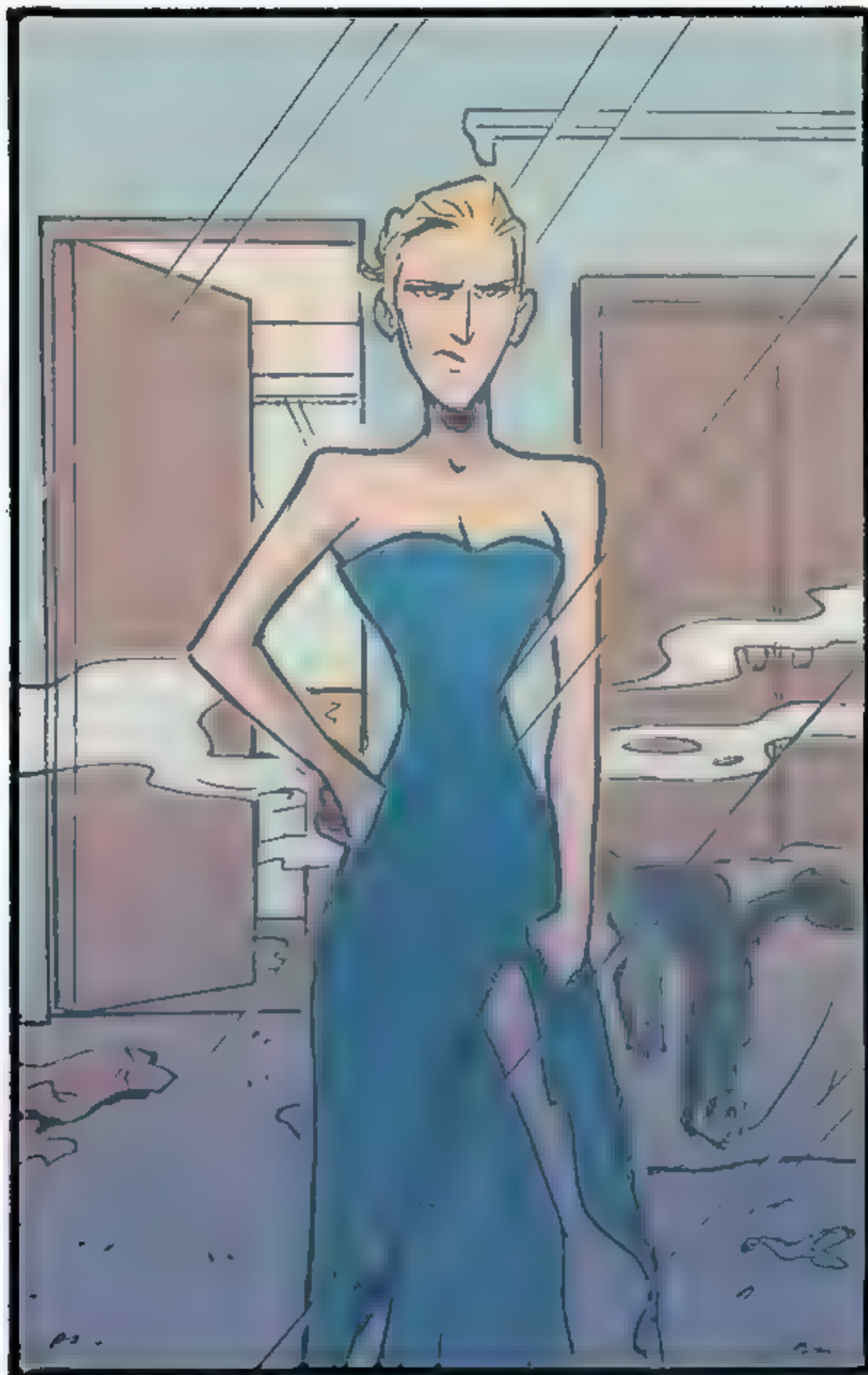


THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I CAN GIVE YOU BACK YOUR **LIFE**, MR. WILLIAMS.









TINA, IT'S HOMECOMING? ARE YOU **SURE** YOU DON'T WANT TO GO?



YEAH, I'M SURE, MOM. I'VE GOT **TOO MUCH TO DO.**

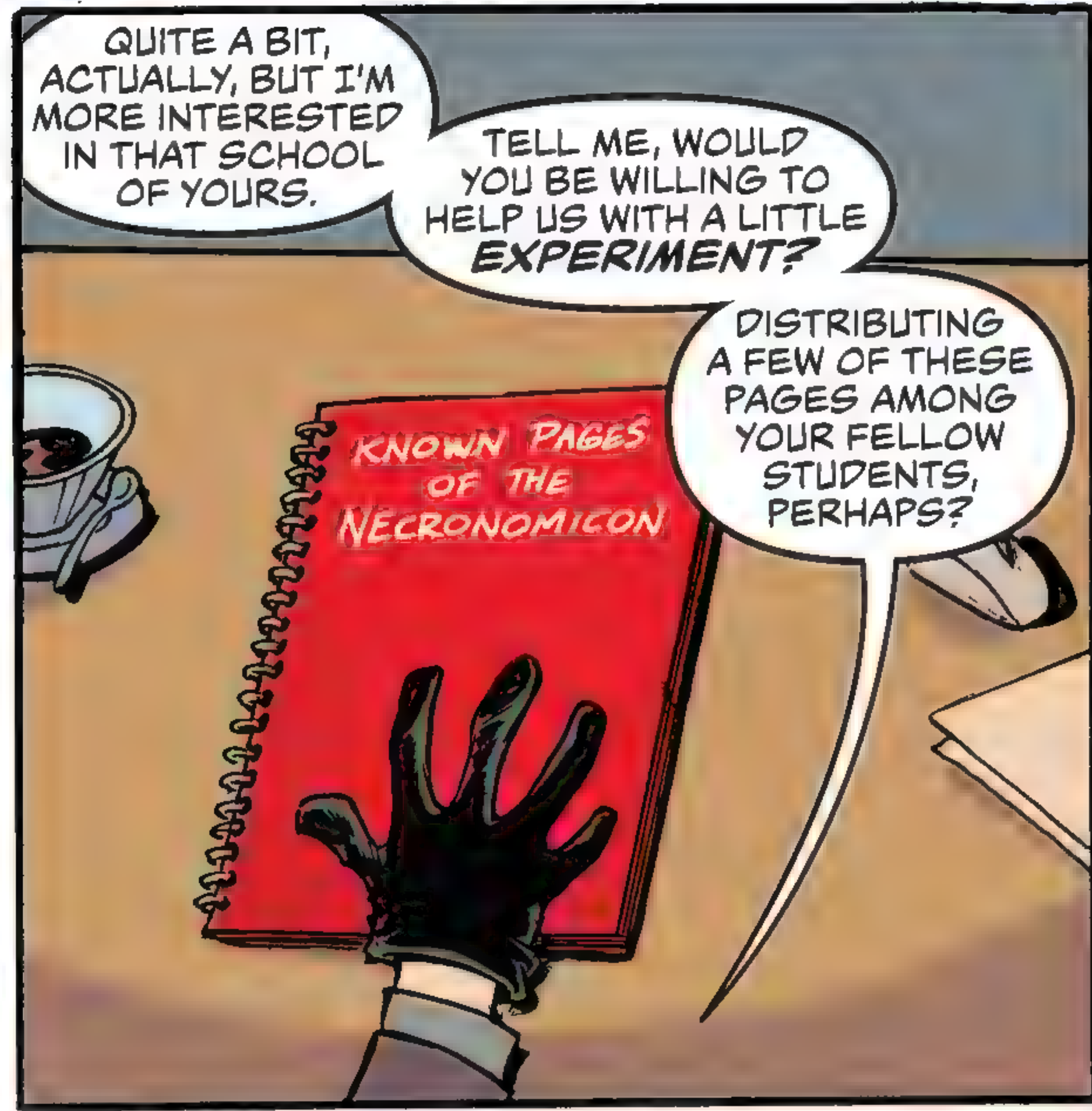
IS THIS ABOUT THAT **INTERNSHIP** AGAIN? YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD, HON.

YEAH...



"YOU COULD SAY THAT."

THE AD SAID YOUR COMPANY DOES, UH...**MILOTARY RESEARCH?**



QUITE A BIT, ACTUALLY, BUT I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THAT SCHOOL OF YOURS.

TELL ME, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP US WITH A LITTLE **EXPERIMENT?**

DISTRIBUTING A FEW OF THESE PAGES AMONG YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS, PERHAPS?

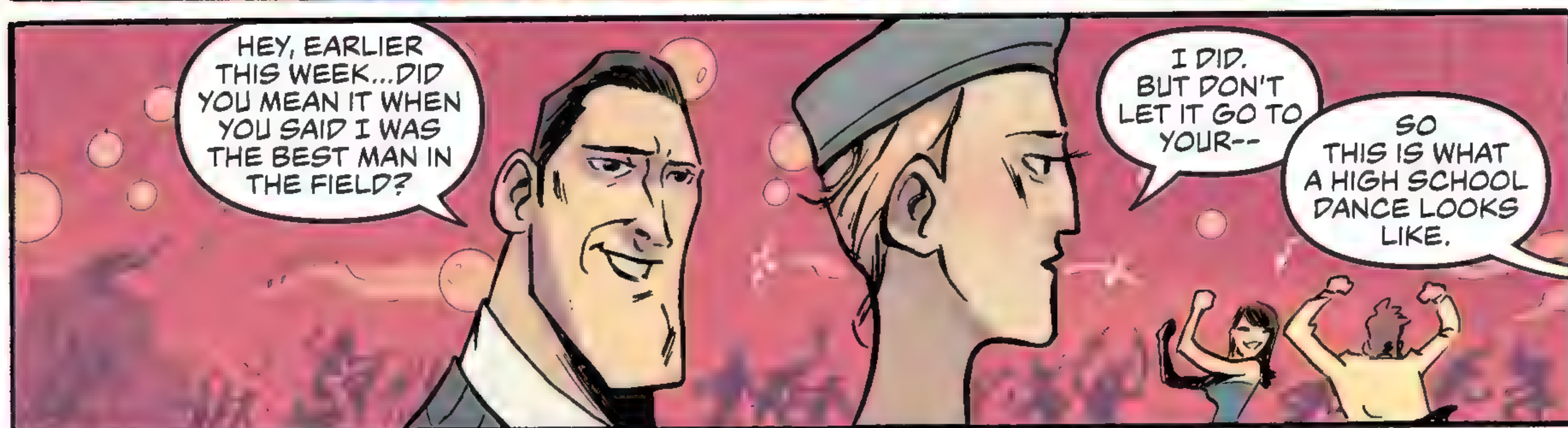


IF IT'LL HELP ME GET THAT **SCHOLARSHIP**, SIR.



GOOD. LET'S START WITH THE **LIBRARY.**







I THINK THAT WALL'S PRETTY STABLE, IF YOU GET TIRED OF PROPPING IT UP.



HEY, KURT.

SO CONGRATULATIONS ON THE WIN, I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT FOOTBALL, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS MAYBE A BIG DEAL.

YEAH, WE'LL MAKE THE PLAYOFFS.

AND SUPPOSEDLY THERE WAS A SCOUT IN THE BLEACHERS TONIGHT, TOO...



...GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING I DECIDED TO BE AWESOME, HUH?

SPEAKING OF, YOU WANNA DANCE?

LISTEN, KURT, YOU'RE REAL NICE. I MEAN, I CAN TELL YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, BUT...

THAT'S KINDA THE PROBLEM. THE "GUY" PART, NOT THE "GOOD."

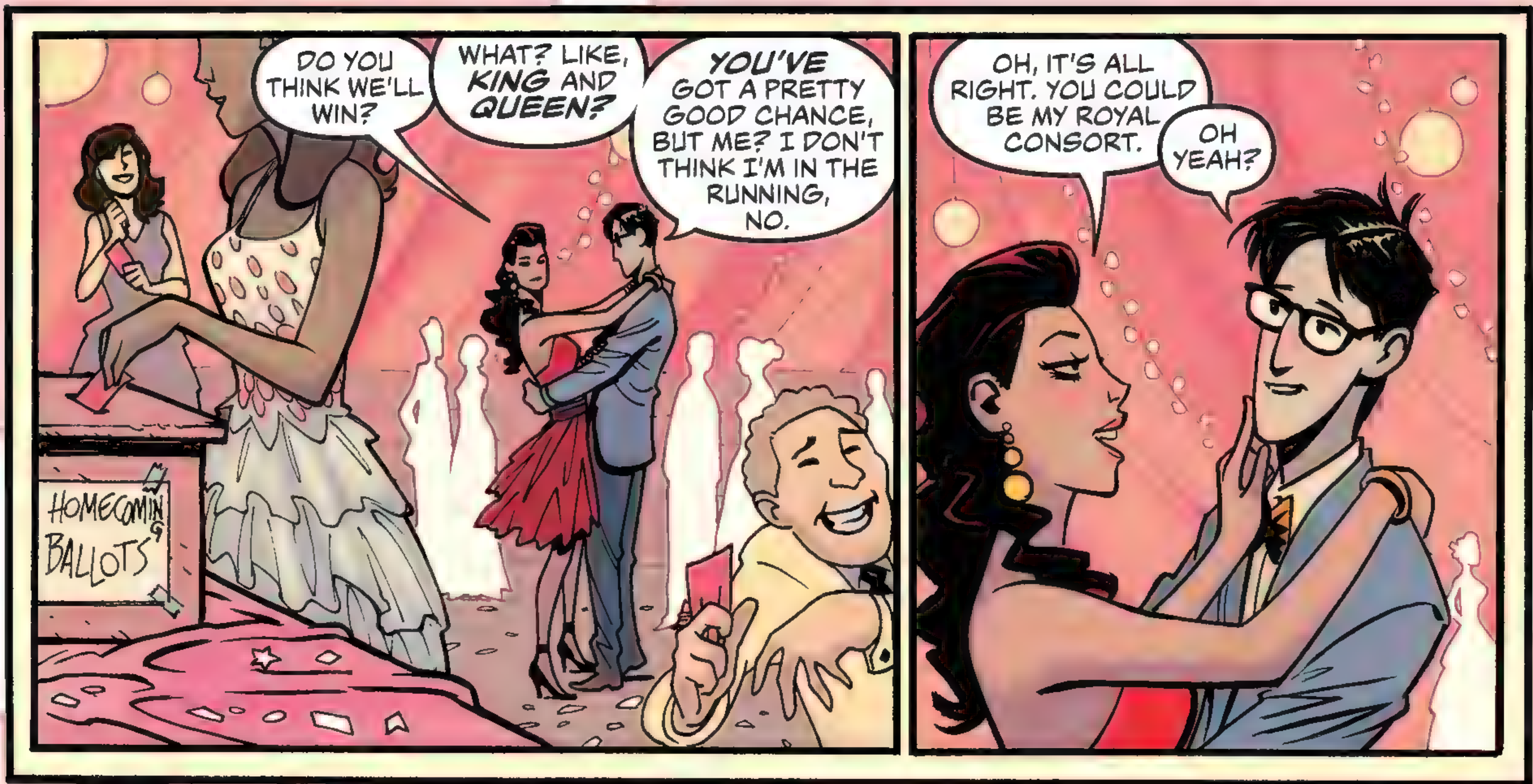
HAH!

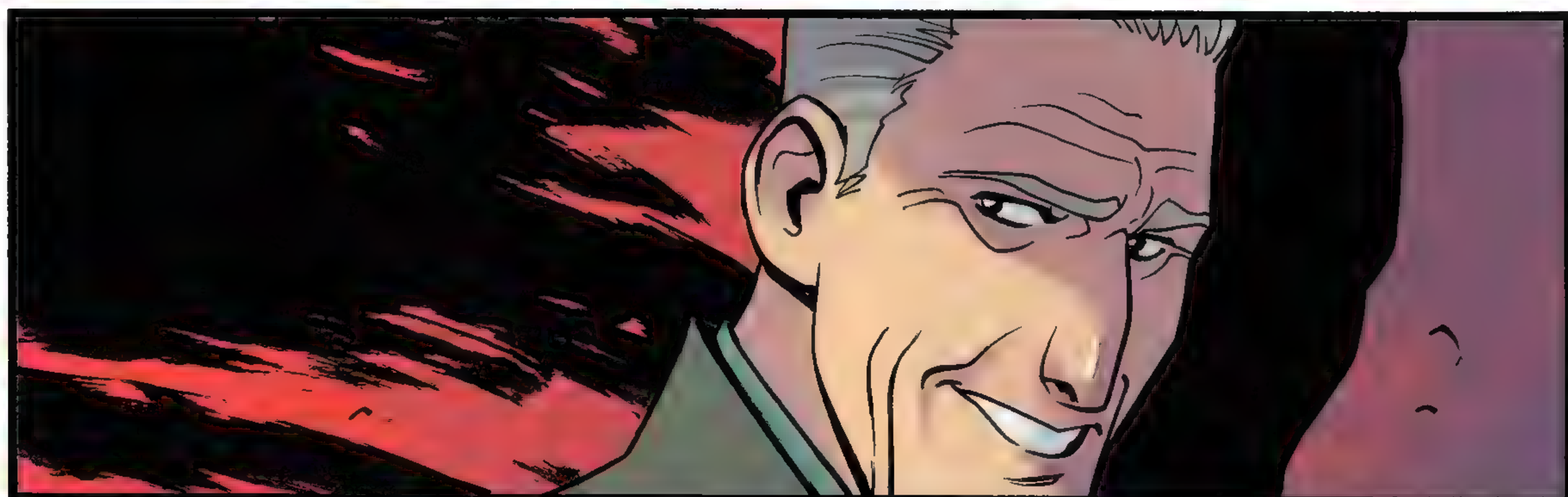


SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON.



C'MON, LET'S DANCE!









FIRST
UP, OUR
HOMECOMING
KING...

HA!
NO SURPRISE
HERE. **KURT
THOMPSON!**



YEAH!

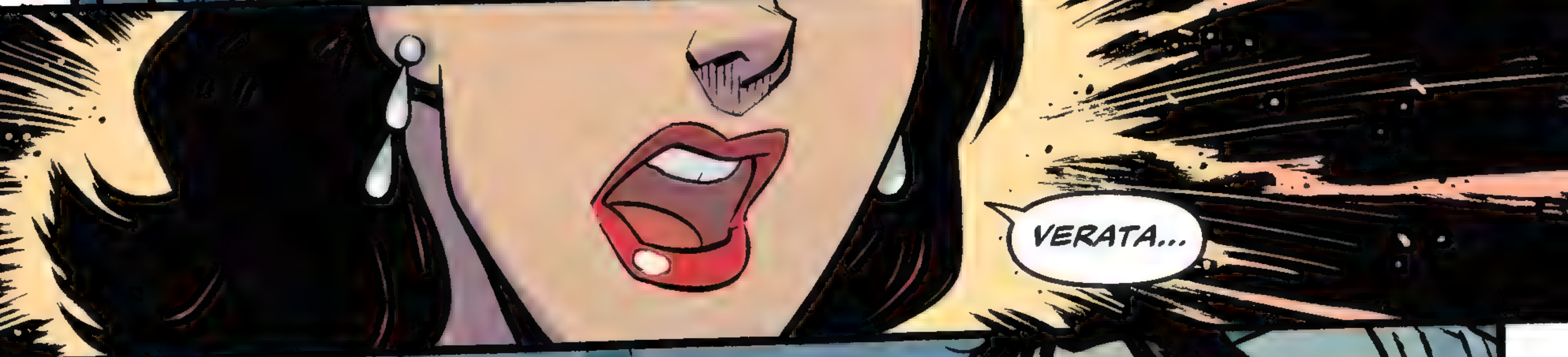


AND
OUR QUEEN...
HUH.

CLATOO...



HEY,
SHUT UP A
SECOND---



VERATA...



NO.
THIS CAN'T
BE HAPPENING
AGAIN.

NOT
HERE. NOT
NOW!



NICTO.



WHAT'S
WRONG, MISTER
WILLIAMS?

SOMETHING
GOT INSIDE
THE DANCE--
AND IT WENT
BAD.



YOU
DON'T
SAY?!





MY NAME'S
ASH WILLIAMS.

I'VE SEEN A HELL
OF LOT IN MY TIME.
LITERALLY.

BEEN THROUGH A
SCRAP OR TEN.

CLINK

CLINK

AND I'VE LEARNED
A FEW THINGS
ALONG THE WAY.

ONE:
THEY DON'T
MAKE PUBLIC
RESTROOMS
FOR LEFTIES.

THOO
THOO

THOO

TWO: DON'T SWEAT
THE PETTY STUFF,
AND NEVER PET
THE SWEATY STUFF.

THREE (AND THIS KIND OF
RELATES BACK TO ONE, IF
YOU THINK ABOUT IT): YOU
CAN'T EVER BE AFRAID TO
GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY--



EVEN WHEN YOU
KNOW IT'S GONNA
TEAR YOU APART.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

THOSE
ARE MY
STUDENTS,
ASH!

MINE TOO,
BABY. OR THEY
WERE, AT LEAST!
NOW THEY'RE JUST
DEADITES WITH
A **BIG APPETITE**
FOR SOULS, AND A
METABOLISM TO
MATCH.

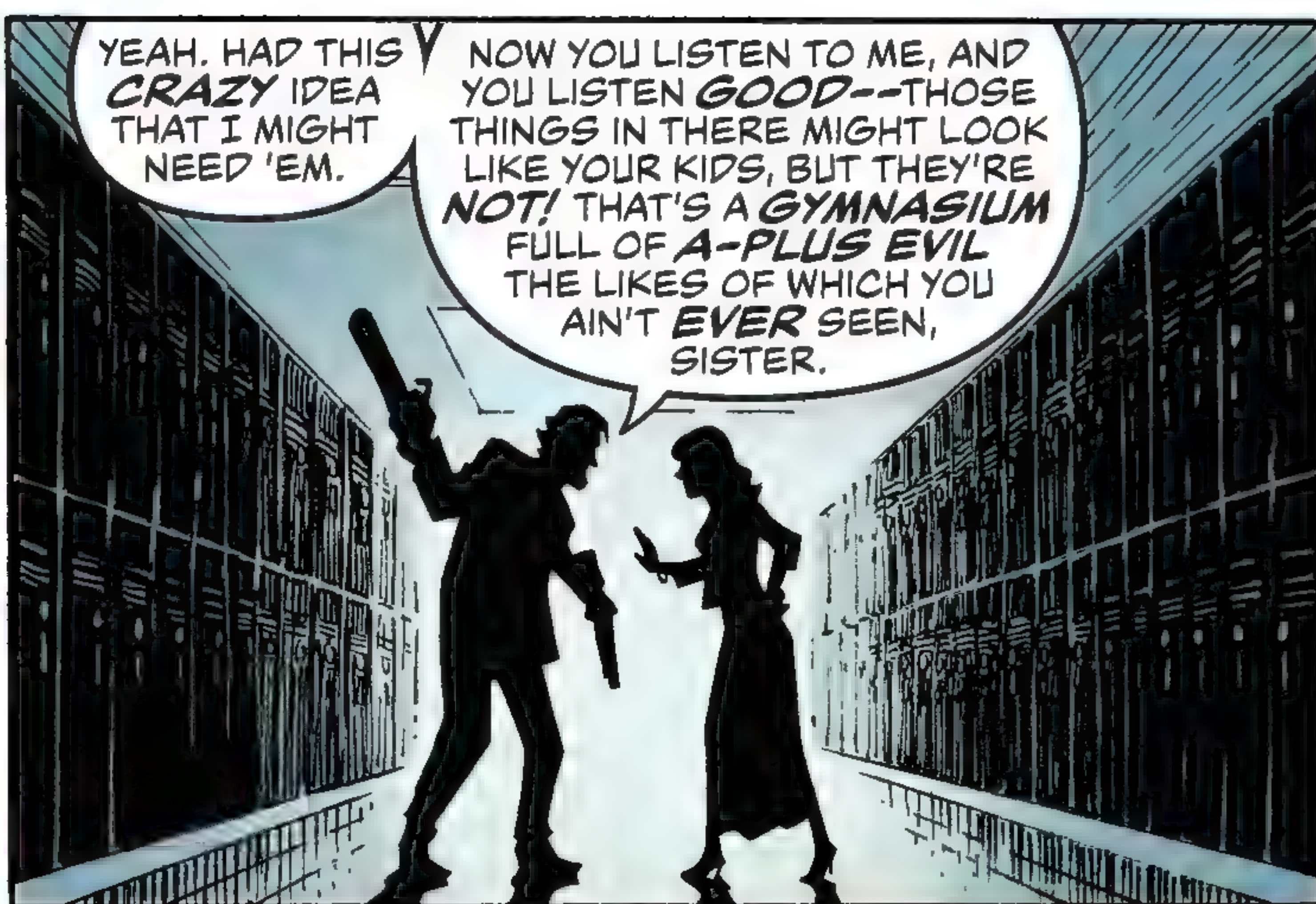
DOESN'T
MATTER! YOU'RE
NOT CUTTING
THEM UP--

THERE
HAS TO BE
ANOTHER
WAY.

NOW
RUN!

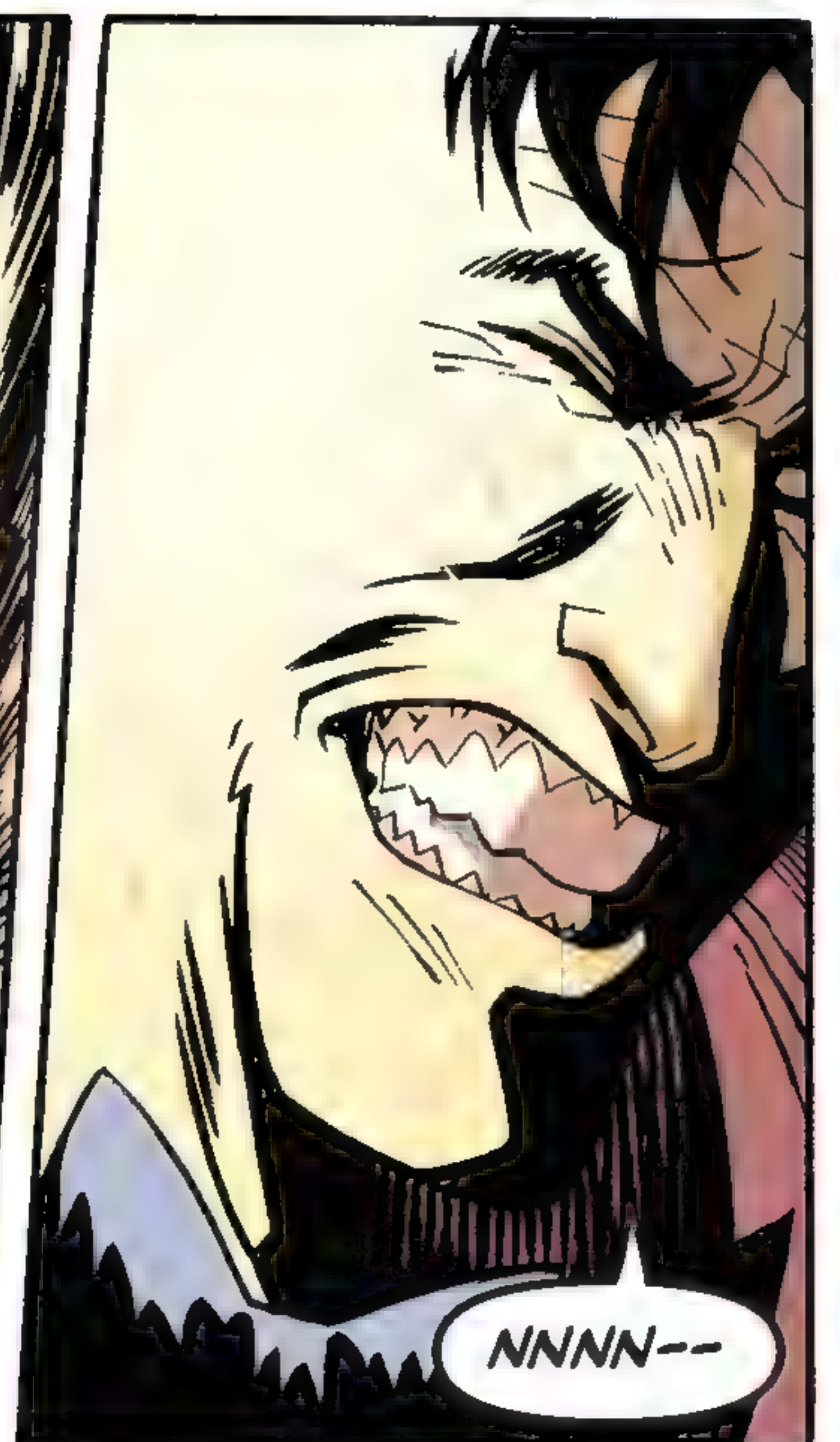






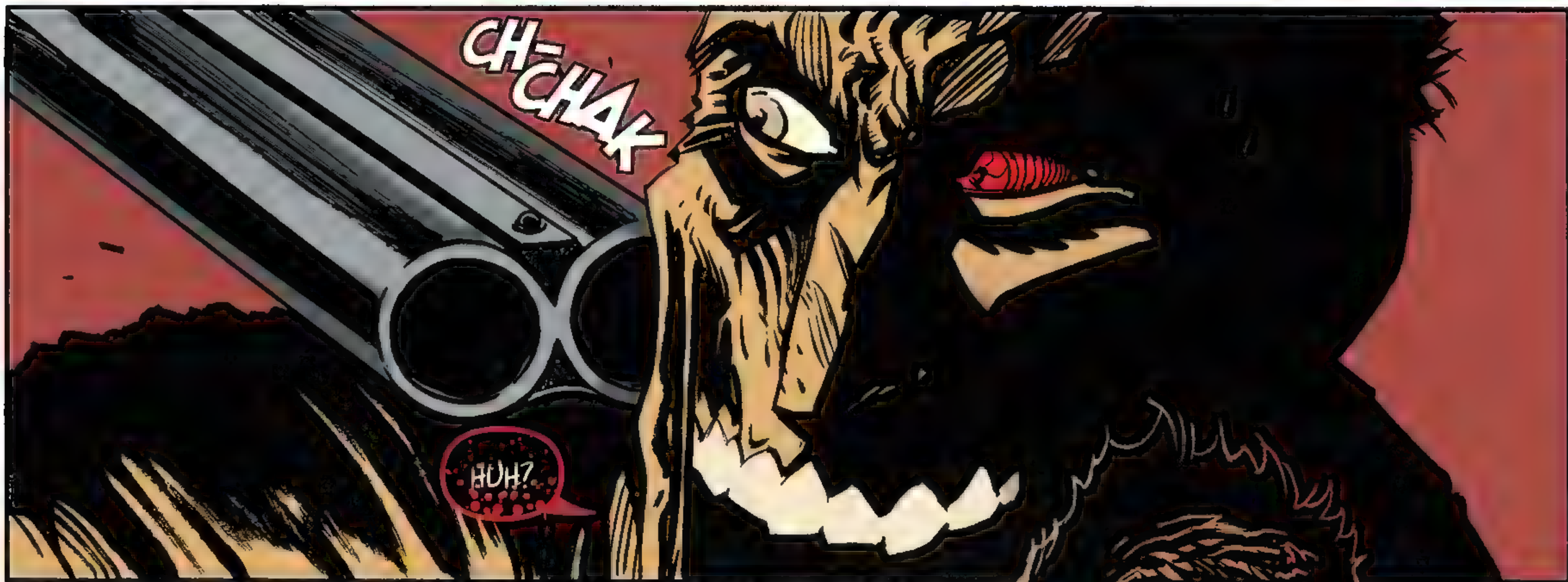








YOU'RE
THE OLD MODEL,
WILLIAMS. BUT ME? I'M
THE FIRST SOLDIER
IN AN ALL-NEW
ARMY OF
P--



CH-
CHAK

HUH?



THE HAND WAS A
GOOD THOUGHT,
BUT NEXT
TIME?

AIM
FOR THE
HEAD.

BOOM





I SUSPECTED THAT **YOUNGER**, MORE **MALLEABLE** MINDS WOULD MAKE FOR DEADITES THAT WERE EASIER TO CONTROL, BUT THIS...

I WAS A **TEENAGE DEADITE!** THE MILITARY APPLICATIONS **ALONE** ARE ENOUGH TO MAKE **S.M.A.R.T.** THE MOST RESPECTED DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.



NO MORE LAUGHING AT US WHEN WE'RE CONTROLLING AN **ENDLESS ARMY** OF SOLDIERS WHO ONLY GET **STRONGER** WHEN THEY DIE, HM?



STILL, I SUPPOSE WE NEED A TEST TO CONFIRM OUR CONTROL. HE'S YOUR DATE, CORRECT?

KILL HIM.



GO ON, NOW. DON'T BE SHY.

NOTHING SHY ABOUT ME

OH, BABY, I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL NIGHT FOR THIS. WHO NEEDS SUGAR WHEN YOU'VE GOT SPICE?



ABSOLUTE CONTROL. ABSOLUTE POWER--

YO, DICKHEAD.



YOU THINK YOU THE DEADITES ARE GONNA BE EASIER TO CONTROL IF YOU MAKE 'EM OUT OF TEENAGERS?

I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE A MONTH AND I CAN TELL YOU HOW STUPID THAT IS.



BESIDES, YOU'RE NEVER GONNA BE ABLE TO STOP 'EM FROM GOING AFTER THE ONE THING THE DEADITES WANT MORE THAN SWALLOWIN' SOULS.

THE PROMISED ONE.

ME.



PERHAPS, MR. WILLIAMS, BUT I DOUBT THAT WILL BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM ONCE THEY'VE TORN YOU LIMB FROM LIMB.

ALL OF YOU: KILL HIM.



BRING IT.

YOU'RE SURE THIS IS GONNA WORK?!



IT SHOULD, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DIE.

AND NO KILLING THE STUDENTS!

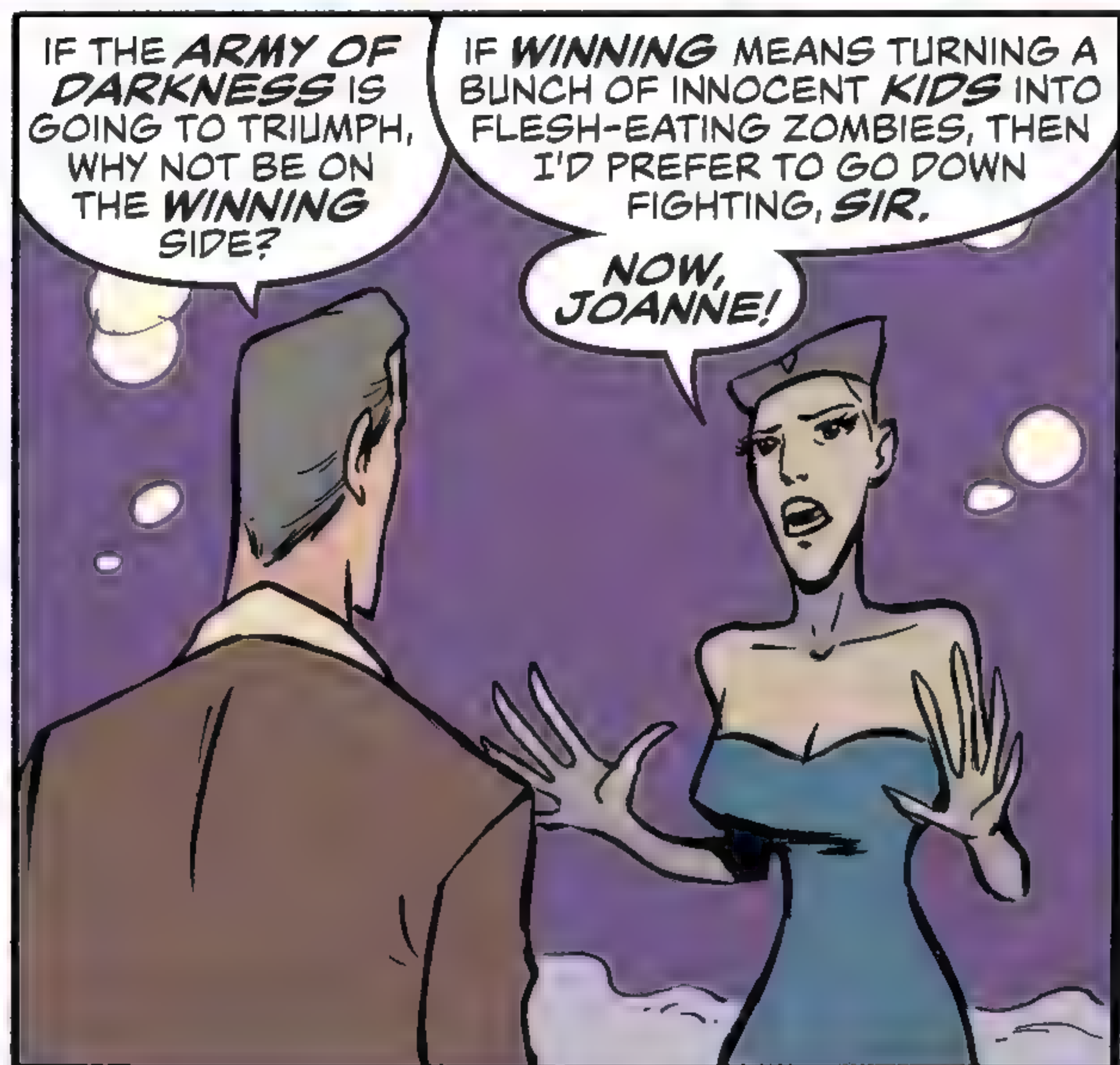
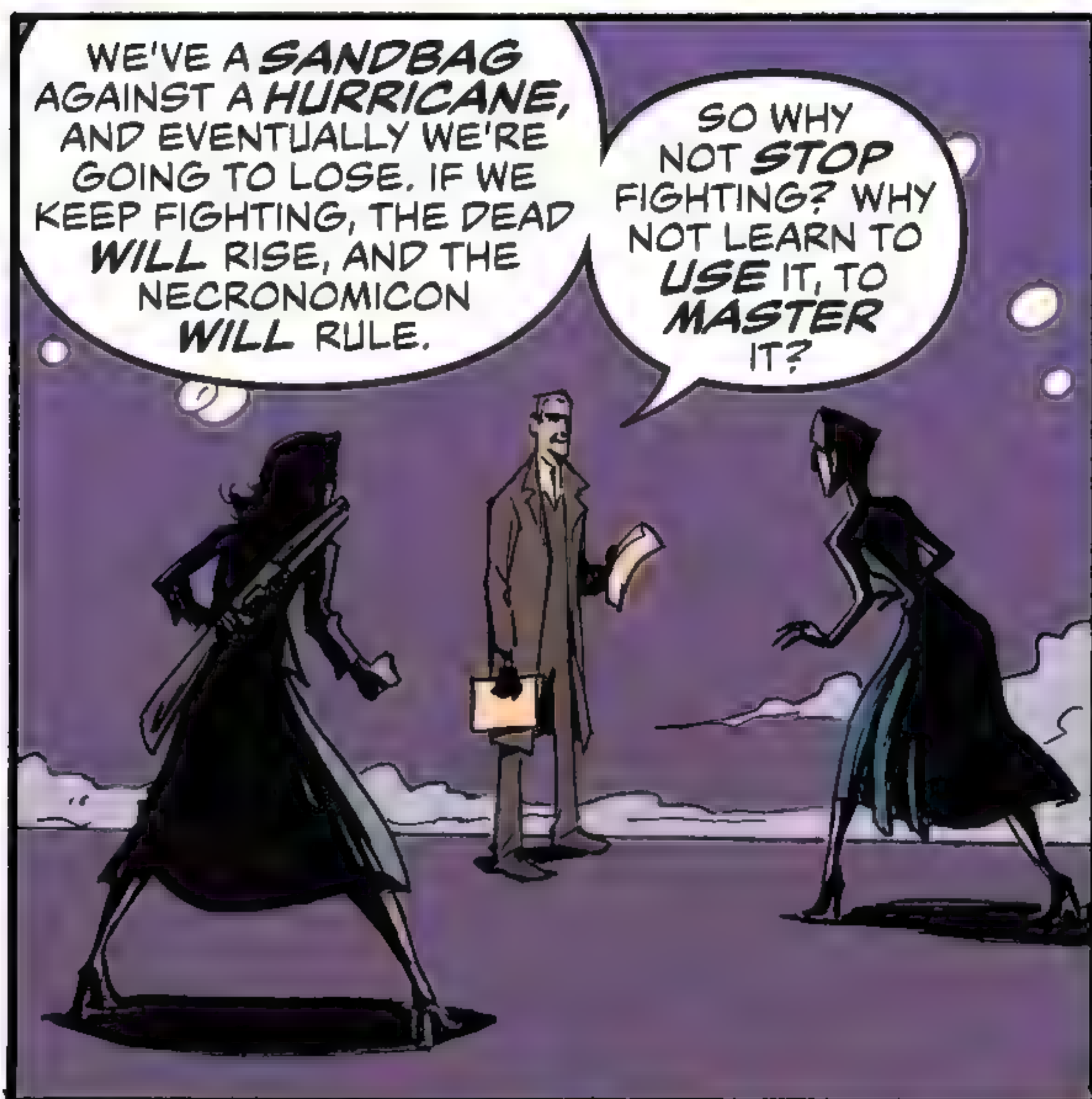
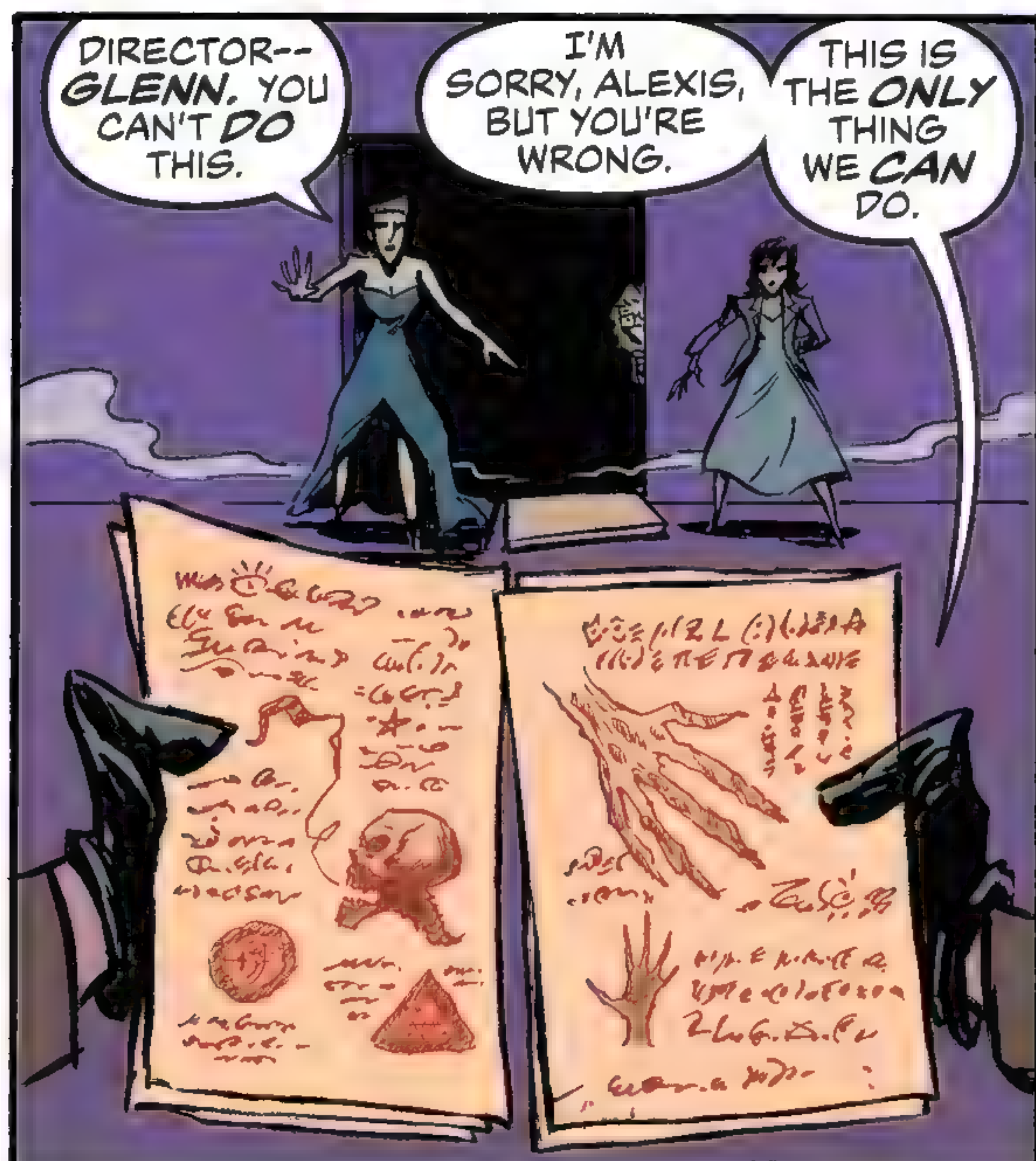


YEAH.

FANTASTIC.









YOU EVER
EAT LOBSTER
WILLIAMS? IT'S
MY FAVORITE
FOOD.

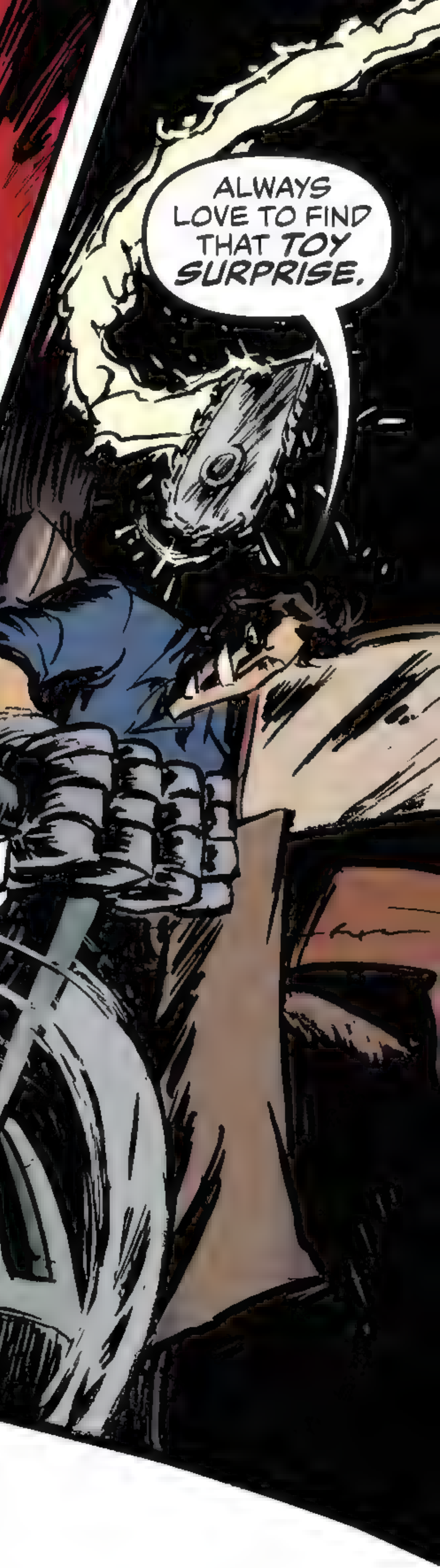
OR IT
WAS, BEFORE
I GOT A TASTE
OF HUMAN
FLESH.

ONE
THING
BOTH OF
'EM HAVE IN
COMMON,
THOUGH.

THE
BEST PART'S
CRACKIN'
OPEN THE
SHELL!



ME, I'M INTO
BREAKFAST
CEREAL.



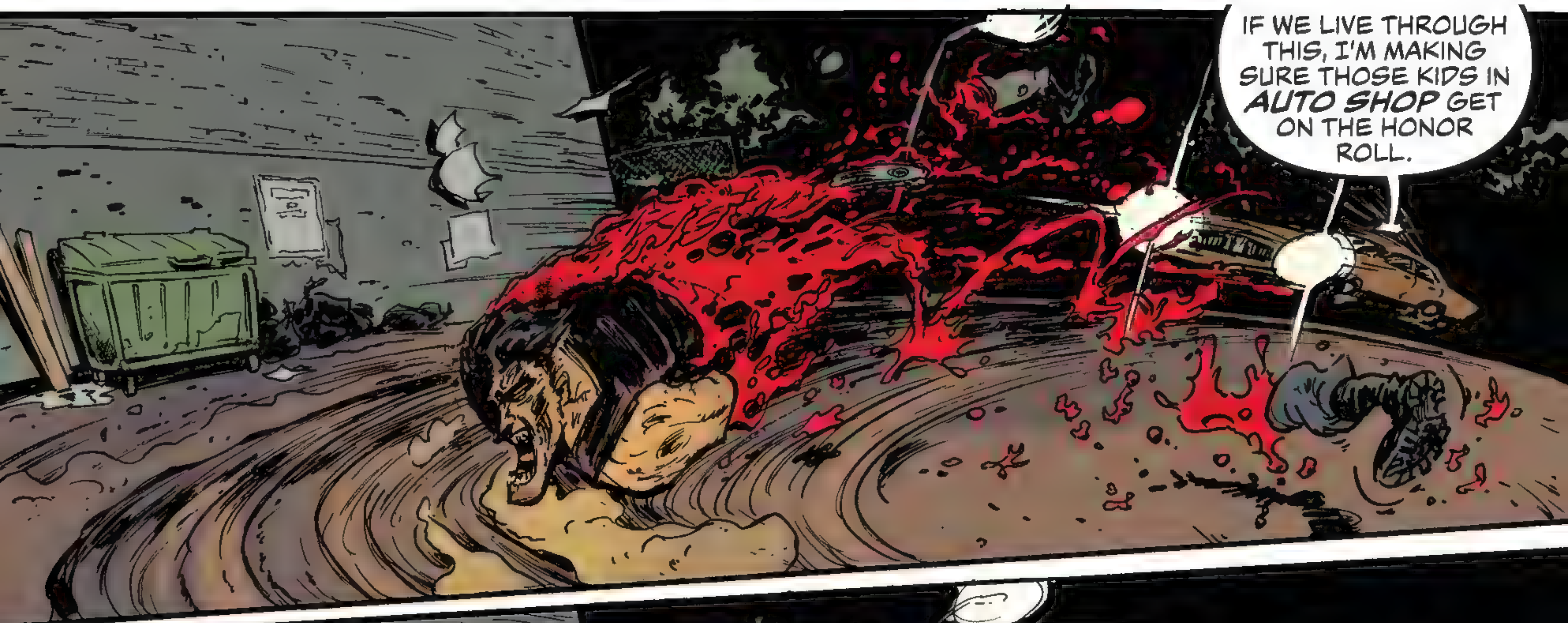
ALWAYS
LOVE TO FIND
THAT TOY
SURPRISE.



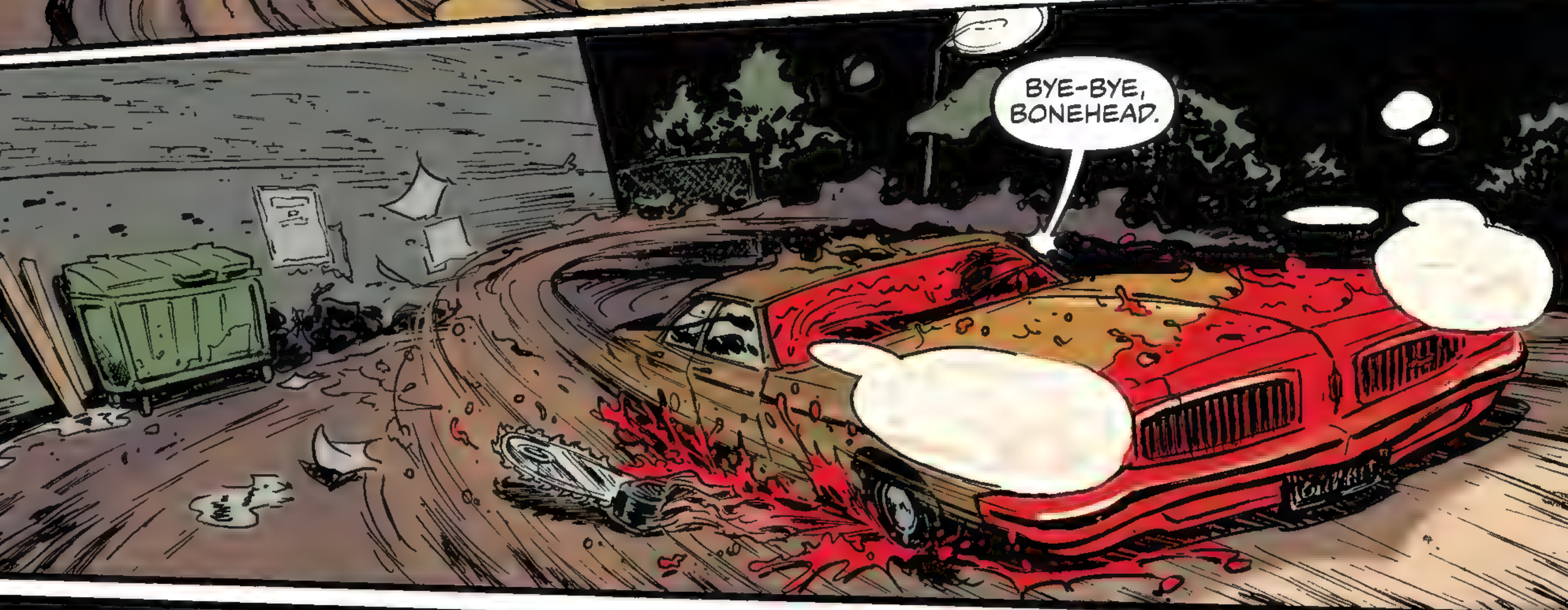
WHAT
THE F--



CLANK!



IF WE LIVE THROUGH THIS, I'M MAKING SURE THOSE KIDS IN **AUTO SHOP** GET ON THE HONOR ROLL.

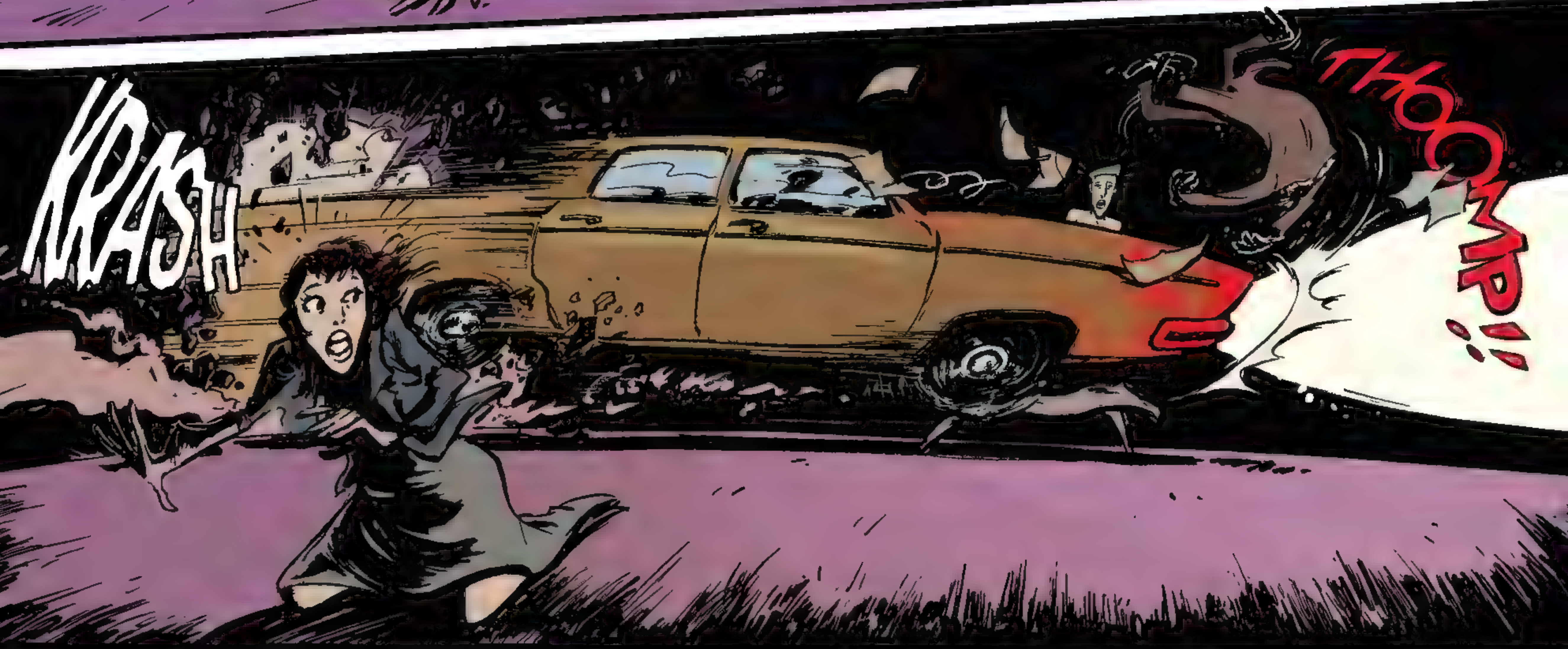


BYE-BYE, BONEHEAD.



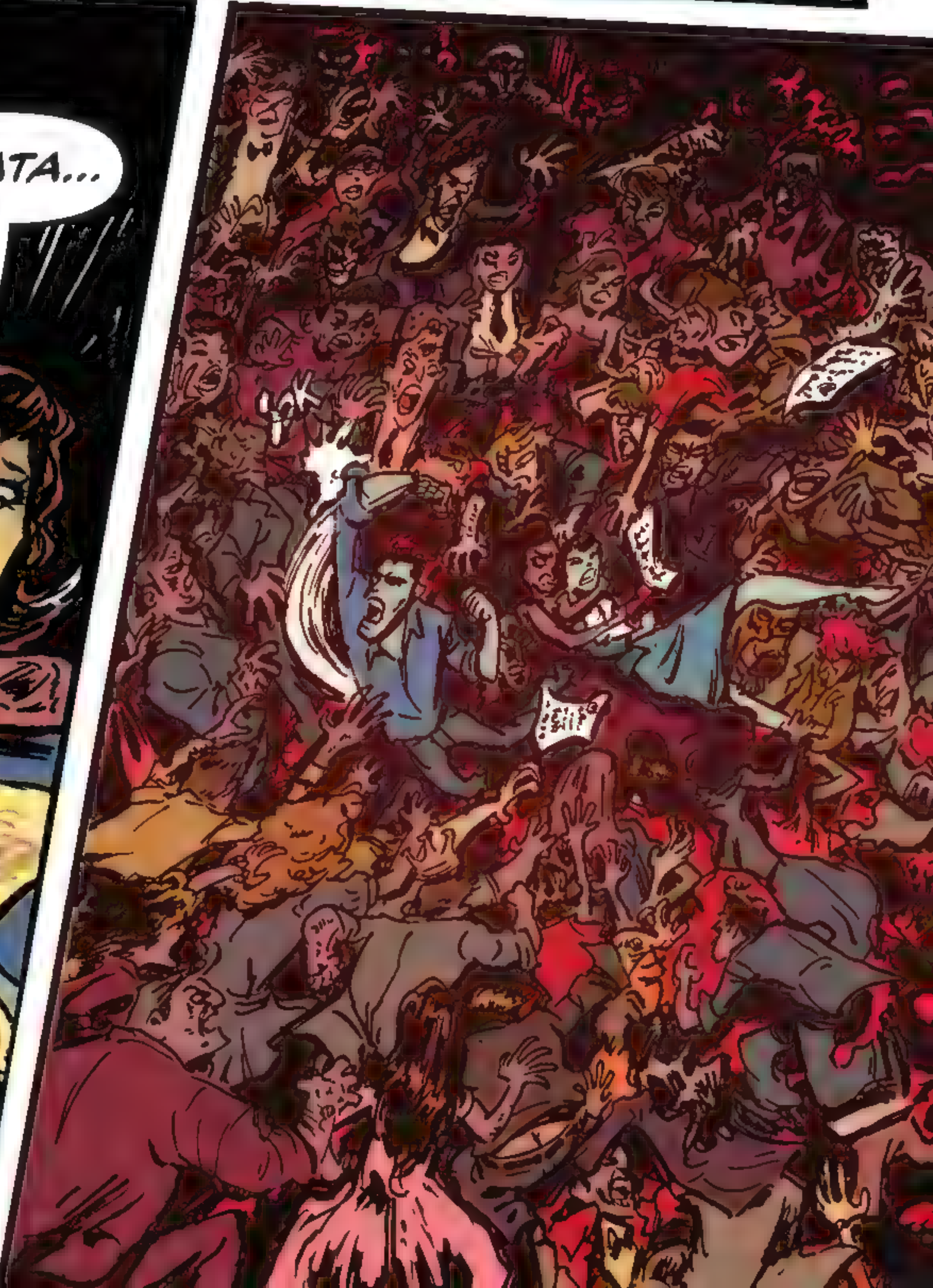
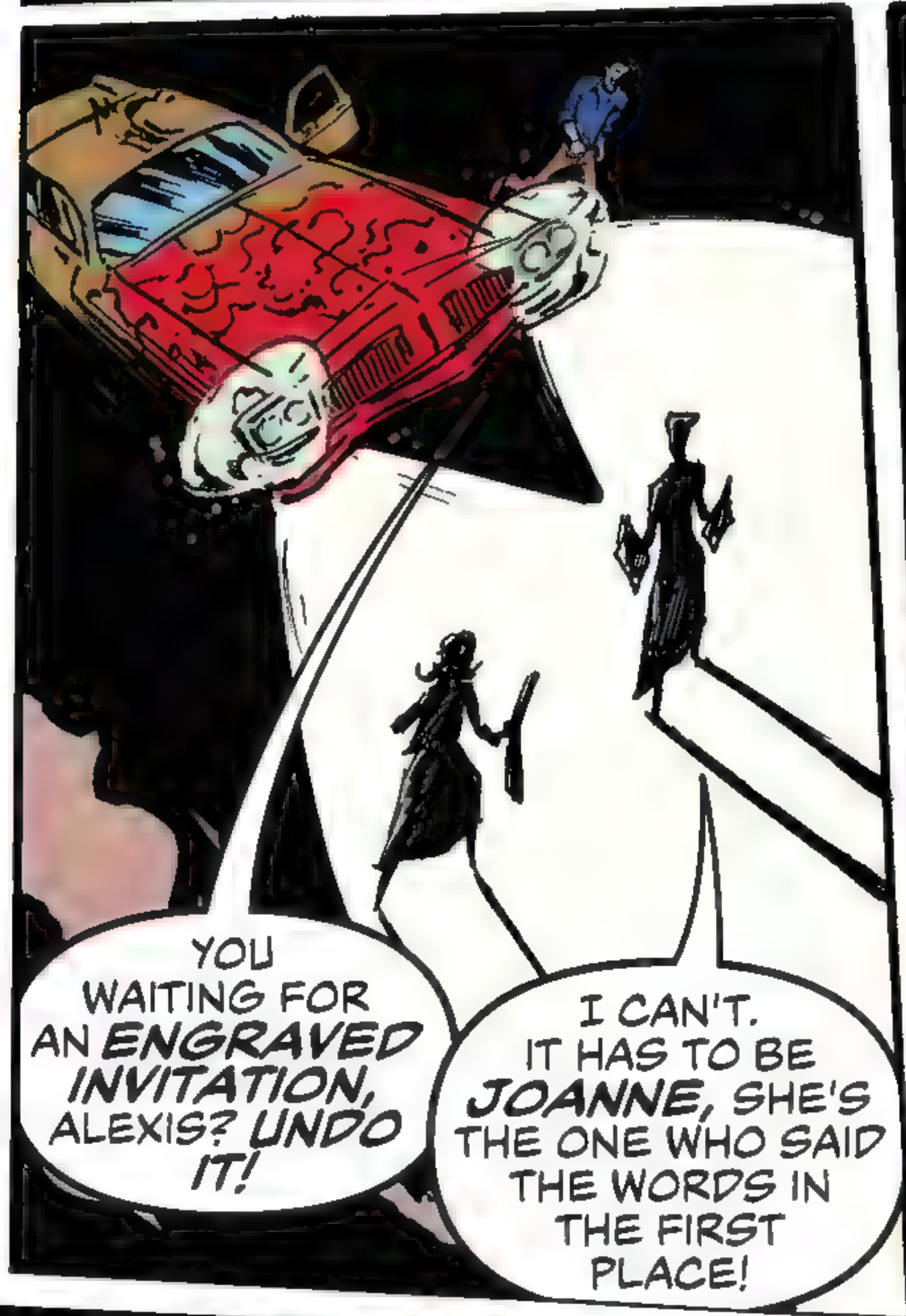
I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT **DISAPPOINTED**.

BUT HONESTLY? I HAVE THE **NECROMICON FRAGMENTS**. EVERYTHING ELSE CAN BE **REPLACED**. I'M AFRAID YOU'RE --



KRAASH

THOOOP!!





--NICTO!



THEY'RE--OH, THANK GOD. THEY'RE **OKAY**, ASH. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL **ANYONE!**

YEAH, ABOUT THAT. MAYBE STAY OUT OF THE PARKING LOT FOR A WHILE.

DAMMIT!



GLENN'S **GONE**.

GOOD RIDDANCE.

NO, YOU DON'T GET IT.

S.M.A.R.T.'S BEEN GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE NECRONOMICON FOR **HUNDREDS OF YEARS**.

EVERY SCRAP, EVERY FRAGMENT, EVERY **PHOTOCOPY**. GLENN HAD ACCESS TO **ALL** OF IT!



AND IF HE COULD DO THIS **HERE...**

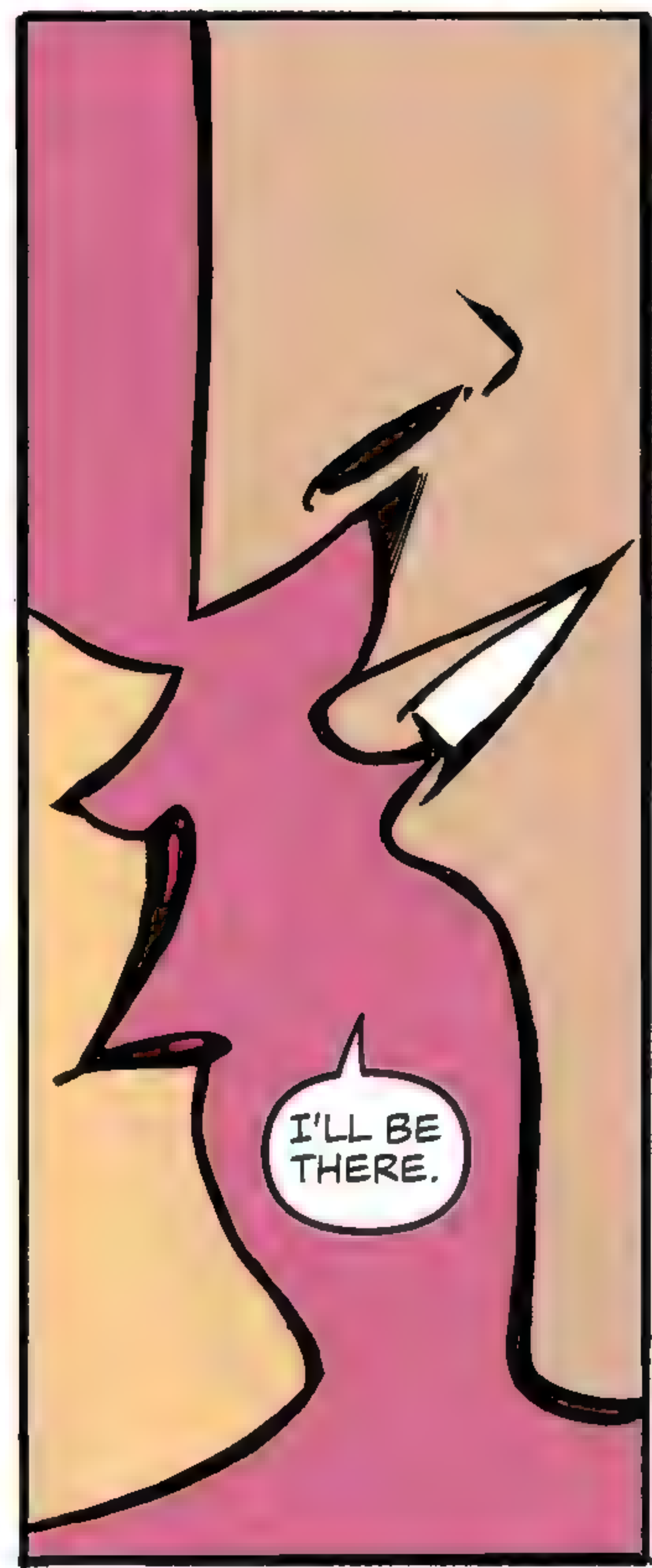
HE COULD BE DOING THIS TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?!

A **SCHOOL**, A **HOSPITAL**. HE COULD BE DOING IT TO THE **WHITE HOUSE** FOR ALL WE KNOW.

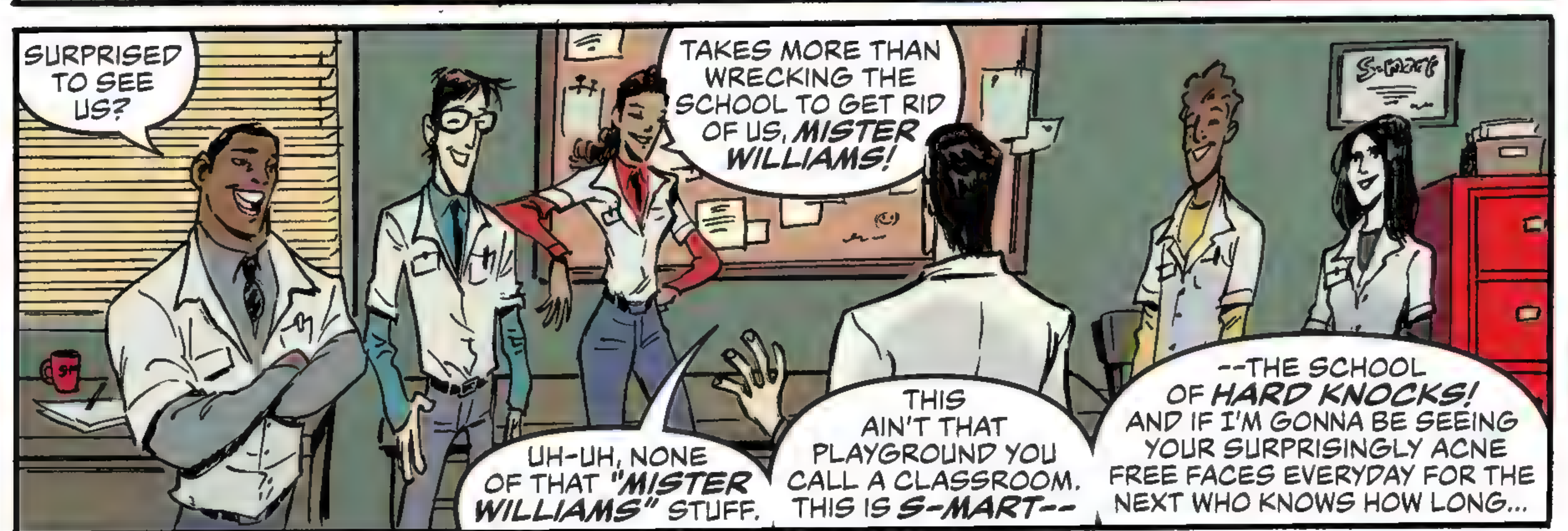
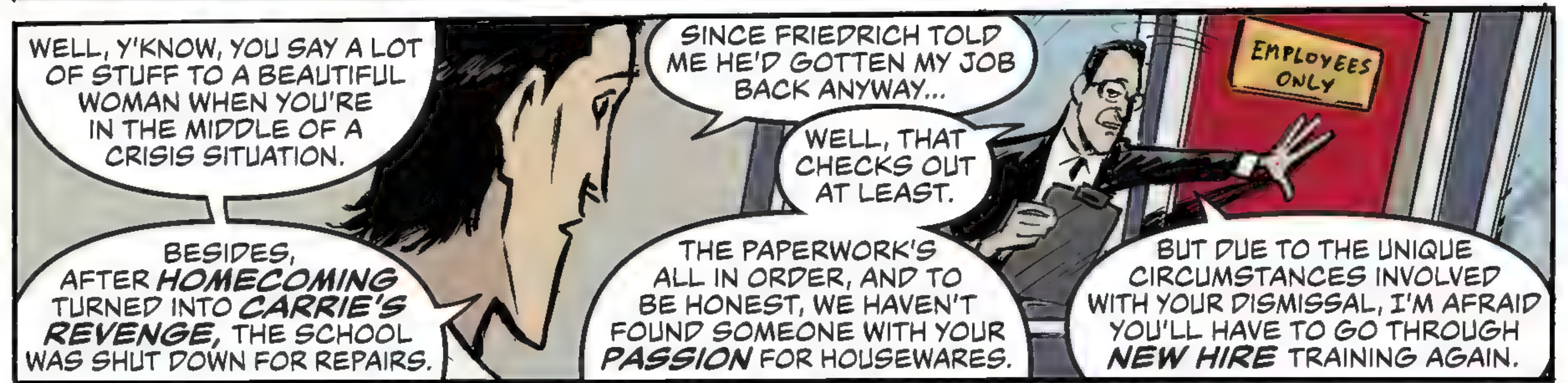
DON'T WORRY, BABY.



IF HE SHOWS UP AND TRIES TO DO THIS AGAIN, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE HE IS.



I'LL BE THERE.



Issue #0
"13th Anniversary Flashback Cover"
Art by J. Scott Campbell
Colors by Etienne St. Laurent



Issue #1
Art by Tyler Kirkham
Colors by Romulo Fajardo, JR



TYLER KIRKHAM



Reilly Brown
2017



DUALANO
17
AFTER
JURGENS
BREEDING

Issue #1

Box of Dread Exclusive Cover

Art by Anthony Marques

Inks by Marc Deering

Colors by Chris O'Halloran



Issue #1

Dynamic Forces Exclusive Cover

Art by Ken Maaser

Colors by Blair Smith



BLAIR SMITH





17
AFTER

McFARLANE





17
AFTER
JMLEE







Issue #5
Art and Colors by
Pasquale Qualano



J'ALAN 17!

AFTER

J'MLEE

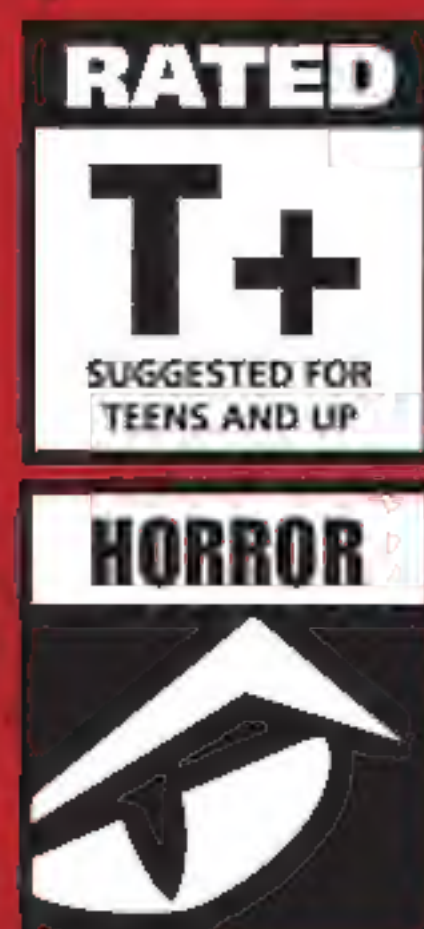
"THE NAME IS **ASH**,
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME **MR. WILLIAMS!**"



Ash finds out the hard way that major corporations frown upon the dismemberment of Deadites on company property and has to seek a new form of employment. What better place for the man with the chainsaw hand to be than in the public school system!

The Chosen One goes undercover as a substitute teacher to find out who is messing with the Necronomicon. Along the way he encounters a secret government agency called S.M.A.R.T. who are charged with ridding the world of the undead menace. Oh, and they have modeled themselves after the methods of everyone's new favorite "cool" teacher.

Ash vs. The Army of Darkness collects issues #0-5 of the series written by **Chad Bowers & Chris Sims** (X-Men '92, SwordQuest) and artists **Mauro Vargas** (Star Wars) & **Sam Lotfi** (DC New Talent Showcase).



"Sims and Bowers populate their script with high school archetypes, all appropriately horrified at the violence that Ash brings with him, which also compliments the Saturday Morning Cartoon memories that Vargas' long and angular figures evoke. A fresh new look for a gory old hound." — Newsarama

"If you're a fan of Ash, the Evil Dead, Army of Darkness, or just good bloody fun, Ash vs. The Army of Darkness is exactly what you've been waiting for." — Fortress of Solitude

"It's clear Ash vs. The Army of Darkness is crafted by fans of the Evil Dead universe, for fans of the Evil Dead universe, while keeping the story accessible enough for the uninitiated to have a good time." — Outright Geekery